



Dear Education Colleagues,

I'm reaching out to you to ensure that we at AFS-USA are doing all that we can to support your plans and goals for the coming academic year. Some schools have concerns and questions regarding incoming exchange students for the 2021-2022 academic year. It's a valid concern and one that I can address. To that end, I'd like to offer the following set of protocols and commitments:

- AFS-USA is committed to the safety of our students, host families, volunteers, and host schools.
- Our students hosted in the United States through AFS-USA are required to follow all guidelines issued by US, state, and local governments.
- Our students will be tested for COVID-19 prior to boarding their flights to the United States.
- We will facilitate any required quarantines and other measures deemed necessary by authorities and/or host schools.
- If your school requires a vaccine, including for COVID-19, our students will follow the same requirements as for all other students enrolled in your school.
- We require that all of our students adhere to the guidelines and expectations of their host high school, their host families, the CDC, and WHO.
- AFS-USA works with global risk management professionals to constantly monitor changes, trends, and recommendations regarding the pandemic so that we can adapt to advisories and implement new guidelines from health authorities.
- In short, AFS-USA will stay on top of what is needed to ensure the safety of our participants and those with whom they come in contact.
- All AFS students have their own medical insurance and do not need to be provided with coverage through their host families and/or schools.
- All of our students have had complete physicals prior to arriving in the United States and a signed physician record/medical assessment is included in their AFS application.

As an organization that has been providing high school exchange programs for more than 75 years in almost every corner of the globe, AFS-USA has faced many challenges, including natural disasters, civil unrest, societal change, and now, a global pandemic. Today, our volunteers are helping our students navigate the safety challenges in their home and host communities such as quarantines, securing vaccinations, and adhering to the safety measures expected by our host schools.

I want to thank you, your fellow educators, district leadership, and the community for all the support you have given to our students, whether it was in 2019 or in 1959. Thank you for partnering with us to create and empower new global citizens despite the challenges we've all faced during this pandemic.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss further or to share ideas!

With warmest regards,

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Any student or educator can become a global citizen when schools partner with AFS-USA.

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