



WHAT'S NEW IN 2021-2022 for ASC PERSONNEL

ASC and the National Science Foundation are committed to keeping Antarctica free of COVID-19. No cases have reached McMurdo, South Pole, Palmer or the vessels to date.

Cohorts

- Travel to the Ice this season will follow the cohort format. (A cohort is a group of people who share a particular experience or characteristic, such as traveling together to Antarctica.)
- You will first fly to a U.S. cohort departure city (probably San Francisco, with Seattle, Houston or Albany as possible alternatives), where you will quarantine with your cohort.
- Expect multiple COVID tests and health screenings.
- Bring a laptop or tablet because you'll need access to Zoom and email.
- Your meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) while quarantining will be prepared according to the dietary restrictions you indicate on the *Trip Details* form in this packet.
- Rooms are single rooms unless otherwise requested.
- You will fly as a group to Christchurch or Punta Arenas on a charter aircraft.

Commercial Flights AOD – U.S. Cohort Departure City

- Tickets are one-way. (Your return ticket will be purchased when you redeploy.)
- Commercial flight schedules within the U.S. are not back to normal yet.
 - Expect longer, less direct routing, especially if you live in a remote area.
 - Be prepared to fly from a major U.S. international airport.
- You will be charged baggage fees on the domestic flight from your AOD to your cohort city. As long as your bags are within ASC baggage allowances (two normal-size 50lb/23kg checked bags), these fees are reimbursable, with receipts.

Passports

- New passport applications, and passport renewals, are taking up to 18 weeks to process. ASC Travel recommends expediting.
- Passports must be valid for 3 months after return.
- (If you have been vaccinated, be sure to carry your *original* vaccination card with your passport, and bring extra copies.)

Return Forms ASAP

- Because of COVID, the USAP must coordinate all deployments with New Zealand and Chile well in advance. ASC must have your Deployment Packet forms *with a valid passport* four weeks before travel commences.
- For the same reason, alternates are also encouraged to submit all forms as quickly as possible.



Participants Living Abroad

- If you are currently living at an international AOD, you must make your own way to the U.S. two weeks before your scheduled arrival at the U.S. cohort departure city, *or* arrive at the U.S. cohort departure city seven days before your flight to New Zealand or Chile.
 - You must self-isolate at your U.S. AOD according to USAP COVID-19 precautions (see below) before joining your cohort.
 - All incurred air travel, ground transport and accommodation costs from your international AOD to your U.S. AOD are your responsibility.
 - ASC is responsible for travel from your U.S. AOD to the cohort city, then onward to New Zealand or Chile.
- Residents of Canada are exempt from this requirement as long as they remain in Canada two weeks before joining their cohort.
- Residents of New Zealand are exempt from this requirement as long as they remain in New Zealand for a month before joining their cohort.
- If you are already in New Zealand or Chile, you must quarantine for 14 days in a USAP-managed quarantine facility. Expect to arrive in Christchurch or Punta Arenas the day before your cohort arrives from the U.S. ASC Travel will coordinate the specifics with you.
- Please contact a Human Resources representative if you have questions.

International Travel before Deployment

- If you travel internationally for *any* length of time in the 14 days before arrival at the U.S. cohort departure city, including your travel to the U.S. for the purpose of deployment, you must arrive at least days 7 days before the charter flight to New Zealand or Chile, and follow the latest USAP COVID-19 precautions and USAP quarantine expectations.
- If so, you will be tested once before joining the USAP cohort, and again with your USAP cohort before traveling to New Zealand or Chile.
- If this applies to you, please coordinate your early arrival to the U.S. cohort departure city with your Human Resources representative and/or ASC Travel at travel@usap.gov.

New Zealand Visas

- U.S. citizens *will* need a visa to enter New Zealand
- If you need to apply for a visa yourself, ASC will let you know.
- Stay tuned and do not take any action at this point.
- 12-month visa letters will not be issued this season.
- If you are not a U.S. citizen, any necessary visas should be applied for at least 8 weeks before deployment. See the *Customs and Immigration* page in this packet.

Chilean Entry Requirements

- Chilean entrance requirements change constantly. ASC will coordinate the specifics with you before you travel. What we know so far:
 - Chile will probably require a special “Salvo Conductos” visa from everybody. ASC will assist.
 - Plan on bringing a 2x2 passport-like photo.
 - Expect to be fingerprinted by the Chilean embassy.



Quarantining in NZ or Chile

- Your meals will be prepared according to the dietary restrictions you indicate on the *Trip Details* form in this packet.
- You will need a travel adapter for your electronic devices if you quarantine at a New Zealand or Chile hotel. You will not need an adapter if you quarantine on one of the vessels.
- Expect to quarantine in Christchurch or Punta Arenas for a minimum of 14 days, until your Ice flight or until the ship departs.

No Personal Travel

- ASC cannot book personal travel southbound or northbound for any reason. All redeployment travel for 2021-2022 will be FAA, first available air.

USAP COVID-19 Precautions

The USAP's COVID-19 precautions are stricter than the CDC's. They must be in order to keep COVID from reaching the Ice. We ask you to follow these guidelines while self-isolating or in quarantine.

- Wearing a double-layer mask that snugly covers nose, mouth, chin, and sides of face.
- Frequent washing of hands for a minimum of 20 seconds, or use of a hand sanitizer.
- Keeping a physical distance of six feet from other people.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, e.g., doorknobs, countertops, desks, toilets.
- Monitoring of personal health for COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea).
- COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): double-layer mask (requirement is one mask with two layers of fabric that is considered effective at trapping respiration droplets), hand sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes (for surface cleaning).

Bufs, single layers masks, and bandanas are not consider appropriate facemasks. Facemask recommendations can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html.



We ask for your patience and flexibility as COVID continues to impact the USAP. Please keep checking email (spam too) as your deployment approaches.

