

# CUPA *Covid-19 Update*

Updated: March 5-11, 2020

At CUPA, our priority is and has always been the safety and well-being of our students. Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, we have been closely monitoring the situation and enacting measures that limit health risks to our students, staff, and faculty.

These measures have included:

- providing regular updates to our students and their home universities,
- restricting student travel outside of the Parisian metropolitan area,
- reminding students of our free professional counseling service,
- enforcing strict hygiene rules at the CUPA center,
- communicating closely with our international education colleagues in France and around the globe.

Based on the best available official sources, including the [CDC](#), the [French Ministry of Health](#), and the [World Health Organization](#), **CUPA programs will remain in session for the duration of the spring semester.** Remote and on-line learning resources will be used as needed.

Our reasons for this decision are as follows:

- According to the WHO, the health risk that COVID-19 poses to young adults, like our students, is generally mild.
- CUPA has 50+ years of experience in supporting students both academically and during a crisis, such as the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris. As an active member of the [Forum on Education Abroad](#) and [APUAF](#) (Association of American University Programs in France) we also have a wealth of shared expertise and resources to help us support our students effectively. The latest joint statement released by the Forum and Pulse elaborates on this point.  
<https://forumea.org/2020/03/02/forum-and-pulse-statement-covid19/>
- As of March 11th, the virus is now present in over 70 countries, including the United States. Therefore, common-sense precautions such as hand washing and avoiding areas with high levels of infection are still the best way to minimize risk and slow the spread of the virus. At the time of publication of this post, France, which has a sophisticated public health system and pro-active epidemic response plan, is not listed as a high-risk country for COVID-19 on the CDC website.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

If we receive new information or assessments from the CDC, the U.S. State Department, the World Health Organization, or the French Health Ministry that indicate elevated COVID-19 risk, we will immediately respond to the changing situation and notify you of our plans to mitigate risk.