

International Travel in the Age of Covid

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For people planning on registering for our 2023 Meribel, France and Barcelona, Spain trip, please read this and sign and send with your sign-up form. This information is as of today, May 27. Things may become less restrictive by the time the trip departs, or more restrictive if new variants cause a large increase in infections.

We are flying into Switzerland and there are currently no entry requirements. We are transferring to France on a charter bus, and there are health requirements to enter France. If you have a CDC vaccination certificate with a booster within 9 months of your 2nd shot, you are good to go. The vaccines must be mRNA type vaccines as approved by the EU, for US residents, that means either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. If you do not have a valid vaccination certificate, you will need to provide proof of a negative PCR Covid test taken within 72 hours of departure.

We are flying into Spain, which has similar requirements as France. In addition, we may have to each fill out a form with vaccination or negative PCR Covid test information. The test may have to be performed while we are in France. On entry into Spain, that information will be entered into your smart phone as a QR code. So yes, everyone is going to have to have a smart phone on this trip.

Finally, in order to return to the United States, you will have to provide a negative PCR test within 72 hours of boarding the flight. We will try to arrange a group test in Barcelona, since everyone, regardless of vaccination status, has to provide this. This is a requirement of the United States government.

There are 3 important takeaways from all of this.

1. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED AND BOOSTED BEFORE GOING ON THE TRIP! IT WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE A WHOLE LOT EASIER. If you have a problem with this, you should really think twice about signing up for this trip.

- For current information for traveling to Switzerland, go to: <https://ch.usembassy.gov/covid-19-info/>
- For current information for traveling to France, go to: <https://fr.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
- For current information for traveling to Spain, go to: <https://es.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
- **You should** seek the guidance of your doctor or other qualified health professional with any questions you may have regarding covid vaccines.

2. HAVE A SMARTPHONE AND KEEP IT CHARGED! French and Spanish health authorities will give you QR codes to be loaded on your phone that will act as your vaccination passport.

3. HAVE ADEQUATE TRAVEL INSURANCE! If you do test positive while in Europe, it will cover a reasonable cost of living expenses and change fees for your flight home, and costs from O'Hare back to Appleton or Green Bay.

I have spoken with Myra Altschuler of Travel Protectors about travel insurance. Her company is again providing group Medevac policies. One change is that now, the price you pay will be based on your age. I will outline this on a separate page. Besides the Medevac policy, there are two other types of insurance available, traditional travel insurance, and Cancel-For-Any-Reason travel insurance. Cancel for any reason means exactly that, but it is a lot more expensive, and it only reimburses you for 75% of your trip cost, and it must be purchased within 3 weeks of your initial deposit and that means the date on your check.

Now regarding traditional travel insurance, if you were not vaccinated, and you tested positive before your flight departing for Europe and could not go, that would be a covered reason to cancel, and you would be reimbursed for your trip cost. Medevac would not cover that expense, since the trip had not started yet. Medevac will cover a set amount of living expenses while you quarantine in Europe and flight change fees if you test positive there.

Trip Waiver

I certify that I am at least 21 years of age and do hereby accept the policies and practices of the Sly Fox Ski Club. I understand that in my participation in club-sponsored events carries a degree of risk for health concerns, injury or death. I hereby unconditionally waive and release the Sly Fox Ski Club, its Officers, Directors, agents and members from any and all liabilities arising from any health concerns, injury, property damage or loss I may suffer as a result of my actions in the Meribel/Barcelona Trip.

Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use any photograph, videotape, motion pictures, recordings or other record of any ski club event for any legitimate purpose.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Only one person signing per Trip Waver