

# Insurance and Post-Pandemic Adventures

It's Not too Early to Plan Ahead!

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The sudden and unexpected cancellation of many end-of-year adventures in Spring 2020 due to COVID-19 brought travel insurance concerns front-and-center. Though most Members have already canceled travel plans for the remainder of 2020, it is not too early to consider what you might ask of participants in the future. Many Members are already planning post-pandemic travel, and the beginning of the year can be a great time to implement a new policy, especially when staff and students have time to understand it and ask questions well before travel season kicks-off. Additionally, uncertainty caused by the global pandemic may increase a sense of caution in your community.

Understanding and communicating travel insurance choices could be one of the most important things you do to prepare for post-pandemic travel.

As you consider travel insurance and evaluate potential policies, it can be helpful to understand the different types of coverage available and what each usually entails. This article breaks down the most common offerings for cancellation, medical and evacuation, non-medical emergency coverage, baggage loss and delay coverage.

## Trip Cancellation Insurance

We most often see two distinct types of trip cancellation insurance:

- **Trip Cancellation Coverage (Regular)**

Trip Cancellation Coverage usually allows you to recover your out-of-pocket expenses if you need to cancel a trip for covered reasons. Covered reasons often include illness or a death in the family, mandatory evacuation (for example, due to a terrorist event) or weather-related issues.

- **Cancellation for Any Reason (CFAR) Coverage**

Like trip cancellation coverage, CFAR allows you to recover some expenses after a trip cancellation, however it allows for much greater flexibility as it is designed to provide reimbursement for any reason. CFAR is a unique benefit, allowing the insured to hold maximum control over their choices to go on or stay with a trip. However, it traditionally provides a lower reimbursement level than typical cancellation coverage.

## Medical and Evacuation Coverage

Being sick is never fun, but getting sick at home means access to familiar medical facilities and known medical coverage. Getting sick abroad can present a whole host of other issues. Most domestic medical insurance policies do not cover ailments abroad, and without that access, costs can add up, even with common but urgent conditions such as strep throat, appendicitis, or a broken arm. Shop for travel insurance policies that include coverage for medical care in a foreign country to keep costs predictable. Also consider travel insurance with emergency medical evacuation benefits in case an ailment requires evacuation, as it can be one of the most expensive parts of care, but lifesaving when necessary.

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## Non – Medical Emergency Coverage and Coverage for Safety Concerns

Would you be ready for a mid-trip evacuation due to civil unrest or political uprisings? How about in the event of severe weather or a natural disaster? These events can happen anywhere and can be hard to predict, especially in an unfamiliar place. We all know that changing travel plans last-minute can get expensive. Non-medical emergency coverage is meant to help cover these and other costs incurred when sudden evacuation is necessary.

## Baggage Loss or Delay Coverage

Lost luggage is every traveler's nightmare, but we usually stress about the inconvenience rather than the cost. However, replacing items in unfamiliar locales can get expensive, so many travel insurance policies provide this coverage. Baggage or delay policies typically reimburse for up to \$100 per day (or more depending on the policy) but almost never cover electronics or medications, so travelers are advised to keep those items on their person.



## When Not to Purchase Travel Insurance

Though travel insurance is often a good choice, it may not be universally helpful. A little research can help determine costs if the worst should happen, and whether the risk is acceptable. In general, domestic trips require travel insurance less often than international trips do, as it is easier to plan for adversity in a more familiar setting and oftentimes your medical coverage will stretch across state lines. However, do not make the mistake of thinking domestic trips never need insurance. Bad weather, natural disasters, family emergencies, and other trip-stoppers like lost luggage can happen anywhere, so always weigh options carefully when planning for any trip.

## Finally

We know travel insurance sometimes seems like just one more expense, but it can provide both peace of mind and support in difficult situations. Planning for adversity in an unfamiliar setting is not easy, and travel insurance helps protect against the unexpected. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to CSDSIP's Risk Control Department at 303.722.2600