



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

December 8, 2021

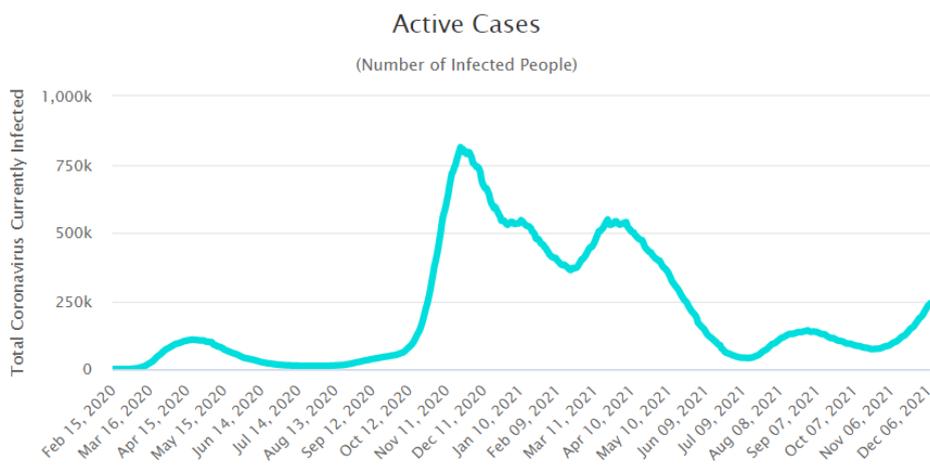
Dear Students and Families of the Spring 2022 Rome Class,

Greetings from Rome, where we are concluding our fall semester in good form. Unlike the previous three semesters, we managed to accomplish all we set out to do without any significant disruptions to our scheduled activities and without significant numbers of COVID-19 cases on campus. All the major trips, plus fall break and the Thanksgiving break, took place as planned. Only two students tested positive for COVID-19, and thankfully neither led to a lockdown of campus. Not everything conformed to our pre-COVID standards of efficiency and excellence but for the most part our fall students received an amazing education and experience of study-abroad.

The purpose of this email is twofold. First, to update you on COVID-19 trends and policies here in Italy and Europe. And second, to invite you to a town-hall meeting, which was originally scheduled for this Friday, December 10th at 12:00pm (CST = Dallas time) but has been rescheduled to one week later, i.e. Friday, December 17th at 12:00pm (CST = Dallas time).

COVID-19 TRENDS IN ITALY/EU

Although Italy is currently in the middle of another wave of COVID-19 infections, the magnitude and impact of this new wave has been minimal so far, and there are signs that it is now leveling off.



As the above graph shows, conditions are far from perfect in Italy but still look pretty stable and encouraging both objectively and in comparison to other countries. Active infections in Italy have risen from about 100,000 in early October to 250,000 currently, representing a 20% rise per week and 150% rise over the course of two months. During the same time other European countries are seeing much higher rates of infection, including Germany at a 600% rise in two months, France at 500% and the Netherlands at 1000%. The United States has maintained a steady level of around 9,000,000 infected people over the last two months, representing about 2% of the entire American population, whereas even at the high rates of today, Italy falls well below that mark at around 0.4% of its population currently infected. Importantly, the impact of infections in Italy has been less dramatic than that in most of the rest of world in two key ways. First, the number of COVID-19 related deaths in Italy (0.0002%) is well below that of other countries, including the U.S. (0.003%). Then, the number of ICU beds occupied in relation to full capacity is still reasonable in Italy at around 10%. Just one year ago (November 2020) that number rose to 30% capacity, a sign that the current impact of COVID-19 on health and mortality is considerably lower than in the past.

COVID-19 POLICIES IN ITALY/EU

I detailed most of those policies in my earlier letter to you of November 15, 2021. What has changed since then is the following:

- **Reduced Access to Institutions and Services for Non-Immune Individuals:** New legislation limits access of individuals who are in possession of a negative antigen test to local public transport and the workplace. The test is valid for forty-eight (48) hours. A negative antigen test does not allow access to other types of public and private transport, museums, archeological sites, bars and restaurants, sporting facilities, and the like. This type of access is called the "Basic Green Pass" now. Note that UD Rome does not accept students who are in possession of this "Basic Green Pass" because it would, among other things, exclude the possibility of an individuals' ability to travel and require up to fifty (50) COVID-19 tests, conducted every two (2) days, for the whole semester.
- **Full Access to Institutions and Services for Immune Individuals:** New legislation allows people with valid certificates of natural immunity (via a previous infection) or medical immunity (via an approved vaccination) full access to a wide range of institutions and services. The validity of a certificate of natural immunity is now six (6) months from the onset of the infection in comparison to the earlier value of nine (9) months. The validity of a certificate of medical immunity is now nine (9) months in comparison to the earlier value of twelve (12) months. This type of access is called the "Super Green Pass" now.
- **Other Containment Measures** are currently under discussion, including the possible reintroduction of mask-wear outdoors in addition to the current law on wearing masks indoors for access to all public and private venues except one's own house. In areas of the country that are particularly hard hit by new COVID-19 infections, the government also reserves the right to limit mobility through a warning and containment system consisting of "yellow" (increased), "orange" (high), and "red" (extremely high) risk categories. One of Italy's twenty one (21) regions is currently categorized as "yellow" and none are "orange" or "red."

The full scope of these measures is outlined here (Italian only) [here](#). Our UD summary of the new measures is to be found [here](#).

TOWN-HALL MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 2021 AT NOON (CST)

Here is the link for next week's town-hall meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84202593919>. In that meeting we look forward to giving you whatever updates have come to our attention and answering your questions. Among other things, we should all know much more about the impact (if any) of the much-discussed *omicron variant* of COVID-19 by that time.

If you have questions about any aspect of this letter, please contact Rebecca Davies, the Director of the Rome Office in Irving by phone at 972-721-5206 or email us at bdavies@udallas.edu. If you prefer to contact me on the Rome Campus, I will respond promptly to email delivered at phatlie@udallas.edu and will be happy to follow up with a call too.

Sincerely Yours,



Peter Hatlie, Dean, Director, VP, Prof. of Classics