

COVID Handbook

Plans & Policies for International Travel with Adventures in Missions

May 2021

Welcome!

We are so glad you have said “yes” to partnering with us as we reach the world for Christ! This past year has given us at Adventures in Missions an even deeper commitment to the mission God set before us as an organization: to awaken and activate Christ followers worldwide to their identity and role in God’s Kingdom. While COVID-19 has affected each of us, our ministry partners are living and working in communities that are severely impacted, struggling financially and looking for hope. Our partners are ready, eager and prepared for teams to come and help as they serve their communities.

In March 2020, as borders started to close without much notice, Adventures worked around the clock to safely bring home 570 participants from 26 international squads over the course of 6 days. We spent the rest of the year canceling and postponing trips, while working hard to create a variety of opportunities that adhered to government regulations and safety guidelines. We found ways to launch domestic trips and host a 4-month extended training camp, on campus, for our 2020 Gap Year Racers. We have become experts in preparing for and managing COVID realities, both on our campus and for our participants around the world.

In January 2021, we began launching internationally again with 300 participants sent to locations in Central America, South America and Africa. Our experience and our resources made us one of the first agencies to be able to launch internationally again.

We continue to move forward with the expectancy, wisdom, and intentionality needed to pioneer a world that looks different than the one we were navigating a year ago for the sake of the Gospel. Now, more than ever, our world needs hope.

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COVID Overview

Adventures Stance on COVID-19

Adventures in Missions is committed to taking risk management seriously, and we consider the health and safety of our participants and the people we serve alongside a top priority. We, alongside our ministry partners, remain focused on taking reasonable measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our participants and those they interact with. While we acknowledge that there is risk, as it's not possible to avoid completely, we assure you that operating in wisdom is a top priority for us.

This situation continues to change daily, and as such, we will adapt and adjust our protocols and procedures as we follow the guidance provided by state and local health departments, our on-field ministry partners, the CDC, and our assessment of best practices.

Please know that all information is subject to change, and there is some information that we will not have until closer to each trip. We are committed to communicating as thoroughly and proactively as we can.

Centralized Leadership

Adventures has a Lead COVID Management team that assesses situations and ensures all decisions are made in alignment with current regulations, health professionals, and Adventures' leadership. This team is dedicated to prioritizing and managing COVID-related issues. Additionally, program and field leaders have been trained (and most have experience) in COVID management and best practices.

On the field, each squad will have a designated "Health Coordinator". This person will work closely with program leadership and our local hosts to ensure we are operating according to regulations and handling situations with the utmost attention and wisdom, including utilizing healthcare professionals and our telemedicine partnership.

Baseline Guidelines

Participants are expected to abide by their ministry partner's regulations, country guidelines, or Adventures' standards, whichever is greatest.

Guidelines will be set by local ministry partners, in conjunction with country/community guidelines and direction from Adventures' Lead COVID Management team. We expect ministry partners to abide by their country's regulations, as well as using discretion, considering their specific circumstances. This includes social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands. How each

community perceives the presence of a foreign mission team is part of our consideration as we look at potential locations for our teams.

Adventures' baseline of minimum expectations is determined by state and local regulations and is communicated by Adventures' leadership.

Failure to comply with these expectations may result in the removal of a participant from the field. Accountability, follow-through and repercussions will be managed at the squad leadership level.

Training on COVID-19

All involved staff, field leadership, and participants will be trained by our Risk Management team in how to spot, assess and manage COVID situations. Participants will be directed toward telemedicine calls with medical professionals, as necessary.

Pre-Field Preparations

Coming to Campus & Pre-Arrival COVID Testing

Adventures is committed to following state and local guidelines. Currently, a negative COVID test result is *not* required for participants to show up in Georgia.

Upon arrival at registration participants will complete a COVID symptom assessment, which includes a temperature check. For our **Semesters** and **Ambassador** trips, a rapid COVID-19 test will be included in our arrival process, due to the short time-frame of the trip. *This is of no added expense to the participant.*

It is crucial that participants stay healthy and safe in the weeks leading up to travel. *Participants exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, or participants whose rapid test results are positive, **will not be permitted to register.*** Should a participant's test come back positive upon arrival, we will work with the participant to establish a quarantine and lodging arrangement.

Participants exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms *should **not** travel* to Gainesville and should contact Adventures at the onset of any symptoms. We will work with participants on a case-by-case basis to get them to their team as soon as it is wise.

Vaccinations

Adventures' vaccination policy is that participants observe the [Centers for Disease Control](#) guidelines and make decisions with the guidance of the CDC, your primary care physician or a travel clinic, and trusted family or friends. *Note: having the COVID vaccine will not omit*

participants from abiding by Adventures' processes or governments' protocols. For example, if a country requires visitors to have a negative COVID test upon entry, having the vaccine will not exclude you from that country's expectations.

We continue to monitor country and airline vaccination requirements. Given the changes we know may take place, we are prepared to, and experienced in, making adjustments as information becomes available to us. If we were confronted with this challenge, we will explore viable options that don't require a vaccine. However, it is possible that a participant could ultimately face the decision of either receiving the vaccine or not being able to participate in the program. If this requirement is determined pre-launch, then the participant would not launch. If this requirement were implemented while participants are on the field, we do not believe (but cannot 100% guarantee) that it could be announced and implemented faster than we could get participants out of a country. In that case, the choice would be between getting the vaccine or returning home.

Note: We do ask participants to *strongly* consider getting the Yellow Fever vaccine, as some countries require it for entry and others will require it based on your travel to earlier countries on your route (even if they don't require it when coming directly from the U.S.). Because there is a shortage of this vaccine and availability may be limited, we suggest starting this process early.

What to Bring

In addition to the trip-specific packing list, participants should plan to bring:

- Multiple washable masks
- Your COVID vaccine card, *if you have chosen to get the COVID vaccine*
- Refillable, travel-sized hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes (recommended for travel days and personal use)

COVID Arrangements for your First Country

In some instances, a negative COVID test may be required for the airline and/or your first country. Adventures will coordinate country-specific requirements when participants are on campus. *Participants are not responsible for facilitating country-specific requirements prior to arrival, unless otherwise notified by Adventures in Missions.*

Health Management & Precautions

Daily Temperature Checks and Symptom Monitoring

Participants will monitor and track symptoms, including temperatures, daily. Squad leadership will keep a pulse of what's happening with each participant. The group's Health Coordinator(s) will

work with squad leadership, as needed, to ensure all situations are handled with the utmost care and diligence.

All squads will travel with thermometers and will have a team phone, with 24/7 access to our home office.

Insurance

Participants who are traveling internationally are enrolled in Adventures' insurance plan, which includes international COVID coverage. This coverage goes into effect the moment a participant is off US soil. All plans include telehealth, a 24/7 virtual access to a medical professional.

Participants can refer to their profile for their insurance plan details. *For coverage within the United States, participants must refer to their personal insurance plans.*

Telehealth

All Adventures participants traveling internationally have COVID coverage, as well as access to telehealth. Participants are able to talk with a medical professional and receive direction directly from them. Participants will work with squad leadership to access wifi to initiate the call.

Symptomatic participants will work with their Health Coordinator, ministry partner, and the telehealth professional to make health decisions. We will always point participants toward local doctors and hospitals when directed by our ministry partner and/or the telehealth professional.

Campus Cleaning & Safety Plan

Isolation & Quarantine

We have set aside space on-campus for use in the unfortunate event one or more participants contract an illness that might spread. We will employ specific quarantine protocols to ensure that illnesses are caught and contained quickly.

In the event that an illness - including COVID-19 - presents on campus, our protocol is structured to Isolate, Confirm, Respond, and Quarantine the impacted participant(s).

Cleaning Protocols

Our campus will be rigorously cleaned daily, according to our disinfectant protocol. Bathrooms are sanitized, floors are mopped, and surfaces are disinfected. Adventures has also purchased electrostatic sprayers that can be utilized, as needed.

Hand-Washing and Sanitization Protocols

High-percentage alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available in key locations throughout our campus, as well as hand-washing stations. Staff, leaders and participants will be trained in good hygiene - including proper handwashing and health standards - during orientation shortly after their arrival.

Health Procedures

On-Field COVID-19 Testing and Costs

Adventures has extensive on-field processes for COVID-related situations, and COVID-testing is available in all countries we send teams to. Once on-field, should a medical professional direct a COVID test, the participant will pay out of pocket and follow the insurance reimbursement process (assuming proper insurance protocols have been followed by the participant). If Adventures or a ministry host's local guidelines require a test (i.e. transit from one location to the next), the test cost is covered by Adventures. If a participant chooses to get tested when Adventures' protocols do not deem it necessary, the participant will pay out of pocket and would not be eligible for insurance reimbursement.

Handling a Symptomatic Participant

Participants and leaders will be trained in Adventures' step-by-step process, should symptoms arise or COVID be suspected. This process, designed from state and local guidelines, in conjunction with health professionals and Adventures' leadership team, will be followed by all participants and leadership. Failure to adhere to these processes may result in the removal from the program.

Travel and Sickness

Should a participant become ill and it affects their team's travel, Adventures will work with the team's leadership and our local ministry partners to establish a plan for the participant. A participant would never be left alone.

Field Accommodations & Ministry Partners' Prep

Quarantine Plans

Ministry partners have designated space and a plan for participants to quarantine. Ministry partners will be prepared to accommodate for perceived COVID cases as well as confirmed COVID cases, separately. In some situations, utilizing personal tents may be necessary.

Mass Outbreak Plans

Ministry partners have a prepared back-up plan, in the event of needing to quarantine a large group. This may consist of using local venues and/or personal tents. This includes precautions to ensure they are able to maintain basic operations, should a mass outbreak occur.

Supplies & Resources

All participants are responsible for bringing multiple washable face masks to the field, as well as individual, refillable hand sanitizer. It is also recommended for participants to bring a pack of antibacterial wipes for travel days or personal use.

In the case that ministry partners have expectations beyond these requirements, Adventures' field ministry team will work with the squad and ministry partners on a case-by-case basis.

Assumption of Risk & Expectations

Informed Choice

Ultimately, the choice to participate in a trip with Adventures in Missions is a personal one. Whether you, as the participant, are legally an adult or not, we encourage these decisions to be made with family or trusted sources. If you are uncomfortable with the risks of COVID-19 in a camp-like and/or ministry setting, please speak with us about your alternative options. Participants should speak with their Admissions Advisor, and we welcome parents to contact Betty Means, head of Parent Ministry, with questions (parentministry@adventures.org or 770-744-4542).

Planned Routes and Trip Expectations

Our Risk Management, Field Ministry, and COVID-19 Management teams continue to closely monitor countries and their requirements. Routes are always subject to change, due to unforeseen safety or security reasons.

Another shift we've needed to step into is the reality that we are unable to guarantee that a trip will be able to enter all of the regions and/or countries that have been listed for a trip. As we adapt to the changing global effects of COVID on government regulations and international travel, we encourage participants to approach their trip with open expectations for what your route and timeline may look like.

As these situations arise, we communicate with participants as soon as information is available.

Parent/Emergency Contact Notification

If a participant gets sick on the field, whether it is COVID or something else, this is what you can expect: in a very serious situation, or a situation where a participant is unable to communicate themselves, we will notify the person(s) the participant listed as their emergency contact. In non-emergency situations, we encourage participants to tell their parents, but we do leave it up to the participant. We'll provide a way for them to contact you if - and when - they want to.

For additional information on how Adventures in Missions is navigating international travel during COVID, visit <https://www.adventures.org/>.