

Rebuilding COVID-19 Informed Consent Agreement (LOCAL VOLUNTEER) 6.29.21 Version



(Church of the Brethren) Brethren Disaster Ministries (“BDM”) is constantly monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as it affects and impacts how we can facilitate our rebuilding program. This has required great changes to our standard operating procedures for many months to keep all volunteers, homeowners, and local partners safe, and to not add burden to the local communities that are still recovering.

The safety and preparedness precautions at our sites will continue to be enforced based on the situation at that time. Volunteers who travel to our sites **MUST comply with ALL these precautions** when on a BDM project. **If you feel you are not able to comply or are not comfortable serving under these circumstances, you should not travel to volunteer with BDM Rebuilding at this time.**

*BDM will be monitoring the COVID-19 situation and changes, or cancellations may be made based on travel restrictions or guidance changes and conversations with local partners. **BDM is not responsible for non-refundable travel expenses if cancellations occur due to COVID-19.***

These **COVID-19 facts** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are the basis for our caution and volunteers must be aware of them:

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets and very small particles that contain the virus that are inhaled or come in contact with the eyes, nose, or mouth through a spray or from coughing.
- Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms play a role in the continued spread of COVID-19.
- While vaccines are now available, they do not completely prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- People 65 and older and people with severe chronic health conditions, such as heart or lung disease, and diabetes, are at higher risk of developing more serious illness from COVID-19.
- Viruses constantly change and new variants are expected to occur over time.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>

COVID-19 Symptoms – Any of the following symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure:

Fever, coughing, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Emergency warning signs needing immediate medical attention include, but are not limited to, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; and pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

COVID-19 Procedure for Sickness -

If a local volunteer in a group on a BDM site should exhibit symptoms of COVID-19:

1. The person must leave the project site immediately and will not be permitted to volunteer again until they have had the resolution of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result.
2. Project Leadership will share local instructions on seeking care and obtaining testing and the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) will be notified. BDM Leadership reserves the right to send an entire group home in the case of a volunteer exhibiting serious symptoms.

If someone in a group should test positive for COVID-19:

1. The person testing positive must immediately notify BDM leadership. They must leave the project site and will not be permitted to volunteer again until they have had the resolution of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result.
2. Others who came in close contact with the person and who are vaccinated, should monitor themselves closely but do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Those who came in close contact with the person and are not vaccinated will quarantine at home for the remainder of the week and will not be permitted to volunteer with BDM for 10 days from contact.
2. Project Leadership who were in close contact with the person and are vaccinated should monitor themselves closely but do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Project Leadership who is not vaccinated and came in close contact with the person testing positive will quarantine at

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the volunteer housing site for 10 days or return home if their term would be completed before that date.

4. Project leadership will collect a contact tracing list for that week that includes all of the members in the group, leadership, and homeowners, partners, or others who had any contact of at least 15 minutes with any volunteers and public places that volunteers have been. Leadership will notify all of those outside of BDM of any potential contact and cooperation with state or local health depts as needed.

Required personal safety measures

The following items are a general overview of personal safety measures for current BDM sites and volunteers before they arrive. Additional protocol will also take place at each location and will be shared upon arrival.

Before Traveling to the Project

All volunteers should **not leave home if:**

1. They are exhibiting symptoms of **any illness** before departure. Volunteers are recommended to monitor their temperature 3 days prior to travel and not travel if it has been above 100 degrees during any of these checks.
2. They have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or have been in contact with someone in the last 14 days who has tested positive, is waiting on a test result for COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
3. There is a safety or travel order in effect in their home region, or they have traveled in the last 14 days to an area that is considered a hot spot with a high or growing COVID-19 metrics.
4. They are not comfortable traveling with a group or observing ALL the safety protocols listed below when on BDM rebuilding sites.

We know it is disappointing for the volunteer to have to cancel their trip, but it is better for them not to go than to share any illness during the journey or on the site and to be away from home when ill.

Precautions on Site

- Physical distancing is recommended for everyone to be observed when around other people.
- Face covering requirements will follow the guidance, restrictions and requirements that are offered by officials in the area the project is located. Currently, for volunteers who are completely vaccinated prior to arrival on the site, face coverings are optional unless otherwise required by a business, local partner or owner of the home you are working in. For all those who are not fully vaccinated, face coverings are required when within six feet of others. Face coverings will be provided but volunteers are encouraged to bring their preference from home to be used while traveling to the site (valved N95 not permitted).
- COVID-19 vaccines are highly recommended to serve with BDM.
- Frequently wash hands for 20 seconds and/or wipe off gloves with a cleaning wipe while on the job site and especially before removing your face covering or touching your face.
- When running water and soap are not available use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- BDM will provide touchless thermometers and all volunteers and leaders will have their temperatures read each morning and afternoon. This will be recorded and monitored by BDM project leadership.
- Groups and individuals will not be permitted to travel if there are safety orders or travel restrictions in the location of the BDM rebuilding site and/or the home of the volunteers. They must also take under consideration possible quarantine recommendations at home after traveling to the locations of the BDM projects.
- Coughing or sneezing must be done into the elbow.
- Volunteers should avoid touching their face as much as possible and should wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before touching any part of their face.
- Volunteers should report any symptoms of any illness to leadership immediately or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after volunteering.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily agreeing to participate as a BDM volunteer with knowledge of the danger involved. I will assist Staff and Project Leadership by informing or calling attention to situations which may cause injury for myself and/or other volunteers such as defective equipment, surface conditions, not feeling well or being fatigued. I agree to assume full financial responsibility for any damages which I might inflict upon the facility, the Church of the Brethren, Inc., other volunteers, or participants, and the Releasees and/or for transportation or any other expenses I may incur if I must be sent home early for any reason.

I hereby agree to accept and assume all risks of personal injury, illness, disability, death, or property damage or any

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other injury, arising from my serving as a volunteer, whether caused by the negligence of BDM or otherwise. I hereby indemnify, defend, and hold harmless BDM and the Church of the Brethren, Inc. including expressly waiving and releasing any and all claims, now known, hereafter known, or arising out of my service, against BDM or the Church of the Brethren, Inc. and its officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, affiliates, owners, successors, and assigns (collectively, "Releasees"), on account of injury, illness, disability, death, or property damage arising out of or attributable to participating as a BDM volunteer, whether arising out of the negligence of BDM or any Releasees or otherwise. I covenant not to make or bring any such claim against BDM or any other Releasee, and forever release and discharge BDM and all other Releasees from liability under such claims.

I, _____, have read and agree to abide by the all above mentioned safety procedures at all times when on a BDM Rebuilding site. If I do not, I know I can be required to leave the project site early.

Please check which applies to you:

- Prior to traveling to the BDM site, I will have received the complete dose of a COVID-19 vaccination and am fully vaccinated.
- I will not have received a full vaccination prior to arriving on site.
- I prefer not to provide this information and know that I will be expected to follow the requirements for those who are not fully vaccinated.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor named above. I have the legal right to consent and, by signing below, I hereby do consent to the terms and conditions of this Informed Consent Agreement.

Signed:

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian:

Address:

Date: _____