

Rebuilding COVID-19 Informed Consent Agreement (OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEER) 3.31.2022 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.
- While vaccines and boosters are now available, they do not completely prevent COVID-19 infection.
- Recent studies indicate that people who are infected, including those who are vaccinated, but do not have symptoms play a role in the continued spread of COVID-19 and its variants.
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- 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 present and more 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.

Before Traveling to the Project

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

1. They are **exhibiting symptoms of any illness** before departure. **Volunteers are asked 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 10 days or have been in contact with someone in the last 10 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 10 days to an area of HIGH COVID-19 Community Level and had a close contact.
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.

COVID-19 Procedure for Sickness -

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

1. The ill person and all other volunteers present on the site must wear a face covering at all times indoors, regardless of distance, other than when eating, drinking or sleeping, for the current length of time recommended by the CDC. District Disaster Coordinators (DDC) of the groups on site will be notified.
2. The ill person will be isolated at the housing site until two rapid At-Home tests or one PCR test have returned negative or the group returns home. BDM Leadership reserves the right to send an entire group home in the case of a volunteer exhibiting serious symptoms.
3. The ill person will complete a COVID test after the current number of days beyond the first day of symptoms recommended by the CDC unless they have returned home. BDM will either provide two rapid At-home Tests for the individual to complete on consecutive days or they may follow local instructions on obtaining one Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.

If someone in a group should test positive for COVID-19 (even if fully vaccinated):

1. The person testing positive will return home immediately to quarantine based on their local public health department guidance. Others in the group who are vaccinated or had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days should monitor themselves closely but do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Those in the group who are not vaccinated will quarantine at the volunteer housing site for the remainder of the week or return home. Conversations with the BDM office, DDC, project leadership and group leader will occur to determine how the person testing positive will travel and travel plans for the rest of the group. Rapid At-home Tests will be available to complete within the timeframe recommended by the CDC or prior to return home.
2. Project leadership who were in close contact with the person testing positive and are vaccinated or had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days should monitor themselves closely but do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Project leadership who are not vaccinated and came in close contact with the person testing positive will quarantine at the volunteer housing site based on local public health department guidance, or return home if their term would be completed before that date. Rapid At-home Tests will be available to complete within the timeframe recommended by the CDC or prior to return home.
3. Project leadership will collect a contact tracing list for the group that includes all of the members in the group, leadership, homeowners, partners, church members or others who had any close contact within 6 feet for 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 and local health departments.

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.

Precautions on Site

- **Physical distancing (at least 6 feet) is recommended for everyone to be observed when around other people.**
- **Notification will be sent to your group the week prior to your service to confirm the current COVID-19 Community Level status at the BDM project location and where you are traveling from or in, according to the CDC.**
 - **When the COVID-19 Community Level in the BDM project location or the volunteer's home is HIGH:**
 - All volunteers should properly wear a well-fitting face covering indoors in public areas, regardless of vaccination status or individual risk.
 - **When the COVID-19 Community Level in the BDM project location or the volunteer's home is MEDIUM or LOW:**
 - Face coverings are optional for all volunteers who are fully vaccinated or have contracted COVID-19 in the last 90 days. It is strongly recommended that non-vaccinated volunteers, those at increased risk for severe illness, or those who live with or spend time with someone at higher risk, wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when within 6 feet of others, including in the housing facility, in vehicles, on the job sites, and when entering local businesses.

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- Face coverings may be required at all times by a local business, partner, the owner of the home you are working in, or officials in the area.
- When eating or drinking, etc., volunteers should be distanced apart (6 feet if possible), especially in HIGH COVID-19 Community Levels, when face covering must be removed.
- 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 masks are not permitted).
- COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are highly recommended but not required 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 have touchless thermometers on site 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 10 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 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 a full COVID-19 vaccination or have had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days.
- 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.

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Signed:

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian:

Address:

Date: _____