

Rebuilding COVID-19 Informed Consent Agreement (OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEER) 8.15.2022 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 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 as well as 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 spread when an infected person breathes out or coughs a spray of droplets containing very small particles of the virus and those particles are inhaled or come in contact with the eyes, nose, or mouth of another person.
- While vaccines and boosters are now available, they cannot guarantee 100 percent protection from a COVID-19 infection.
- Recent studies indicate that people who are infected, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, 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 the virus.
- Because the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 increases with close proximity with an infected person, 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. Other factors also include if the ill person was coughing or breathing heavy, exhibiting any symptoms, wearing a face covering or not, and the ventilation of the location.
- 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 with more 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 up to 10 days after exposure to COVID-19: 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; or 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 less than 6 days before departure or after testing positive more than 6 days before departure they are not fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) or your symptoms are not improving.
3. They have been in close contact with someone in the last 6 days who has tested positive, is waiting on a test result for COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. If day 6 is before departure, the volunteer should test before leaving for the project regardless of symptoms and not travel if the test is positive.
4. If they are coming from or going to an area with a HIGH COVID-19 Community Level and are not willing to wear a face covering when within 6 feet of others, including in the housing facility, in vehicles, on the job sites, and when entering local businesses, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or individual risk.

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5. They are not comfortable traveling with a group or observing ALL the safety protocols when on BDM rebuilding sites.

Though 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 -

The ill person will be isolated at the housing site and complete a rapid At-Home Test. District Disaster Coordinators (DDC) of the groups on site will be notified.

1. **If the first test is negative**, the ill person will continue to isolate or properly wear a well-fitting face covering indoors when within 6 feet of others, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or individual risk, until two rapid At-Home Tests or one Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test have returned negative or the group returns 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 PCR test.

If both tests are negative, and symptoms improve, the ill person can end their isolation and return to work. It is recommended that the person still properly wear a well-fitted face covering when within 6 feet of others for at least 5 days.

BDM Leadership reserves the right to send an entire group home in the case of a volunteer exhibiting serious symptoms of any illness.

2. **If the either test is positive**, the ill person will be isolated at the housing site regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or individual risk, and will return home immediately to quarantine based on their local public health department guidance. 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.

Others in the group, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or individual risk, should monitor themselves closely and properly wear a well-fitting face covering when within 6 feet of others but do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. If they are still on the project on the date recommended by the CDC to test after exposure, rapid At-home Tests will be available to complete.

Project leadership who was in close contact with the person testing positive should monitor themselves closely and properly wear a well-fitted face covering when within 6 feet of others but do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. If they are still on the project on the date recommended by the CDC to test after exposure, rapid At-home Tests will be available to complete.

Project leadership will collect a contact tracing list for the group that includes all 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 testing positive. Leadership will notify all of those outside of BDM of any potential contact and cooperate 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

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- Physical distancing (at least 6 feet) is recommended for everyone to be observed when around other people.
- **Notification will be sent to each group the week prior to their service to confirm the current Community Level status at the BDM project location and where they 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 when within 6 feet of others, including in the housing facility, in vehicles, on the job sites, and when entering local businesses, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, 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.
- 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.
- In HIGH COVID-19 Community Levels when eating or drinking, etc. and a face covering must be removed, volunteers should be distanced apart (6 feet if possible).
- 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.
- 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.
- Upon return home, monitor your symptoms and consider staying away from vulnerable people.

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.

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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: _____