



Brethren Disaster Ministries Health Safety and Illness Policy

Policy Summary:

- Respond as a volunteer only when you are healthy. Bringing illness to a BDM Rebuilding site does harm.
- BDM has policies and procedures in place to help keep everyone healthy and prevent the spread of illness.
- Most special COVID-19 procedures have ended, while continued good hygiene is encouraged.

1. Do not travel to a BDM Rebuilding site if you are feeling symptoms of any illness

All volunteers serve intending to have a positive impact. When you travel while sick, your affect can be negative! You can easily share your illness with:

- The group you travel with and other volunteers at the project site.
- Project Leaders there to serve you and who stay on the site for multiple weeks.
- Church members or others who share the facility that is graciously hosting us.
- And most importantly, the homeowners we are serving.

You should not leave home if:

1. You are exhibiting symptoms of any illness before departure including a fever.
2. You have tested positive for COVID-19, influenza, or other communicable illnesses less than 6 days before departure or after testing positive more than 6 days before departure you are not fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) or your symptoms are not improving.
3. You 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, influenza, or other communicable illnesses or is experiencing symptoms of those illnesses. If day 6 is before departure, you should test before leaving for the project regardless of symptoms and not travel if the test is positive.
4. You are not comfortable traveling and sleeping in a room with a group or observing ALL the safety protocols when on BDM rebuilding sites.

2. Illness at Project Site

If any volunteer should exhibit symptoms of a serious illness on the BDM site:

- They will be isolated at the housing site or a local hotel.
- The District Disaster Coordinators (DDC) or group leader of the groups on site will be notified.
- The ill volunteer will complete a rapid At-Home Test if symptoms could be COVID-19.

- If the test is negative, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or individual risk, they should also stay isolated until symptoms improve in case they are contagious of another illness. When symptoms improve, they should still monitor themselves closely and keep a distance from others.
- If the test is positive, the ill person will be isolated regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or individual risk, and will return home immediately. 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 or leaders, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or individual risk, should monitor themselves closely and it is highly recommended to 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.
- Leadership will notify all of those outside of BDM of any potential contact with volunteers or leader who have serious symptoms of any illness.
- A Health/Injury Report will be completed and returned to the BDM office.

BDM Leadership reserves the right to send an individual or group home in the case of one or more volunteers exhibiting serious symptoms of any illness.

3. Health Guidance for BDM Rebuilding Sites

General

- BDM is prepared to provide volunteers and leadership with individual PPE such as face coverings, work and kitchen gloves, hand sanitizer, and/or sanitizing wipes, for use during their time of service.
- Volunteers will be encouraged to mark all personal items used in a common area (i.e. the work or housing site) with their name for ease of identification. (This can be done with an indelible marker or blue tape depending on the nature of the item.) Markers will be provided at orientation for this purpose.

Housing site

- HEPA air purifiers will be placed in all sleeping spaces based on room size. These purifiers will have the appropriate filters for germ defense.
- Any bedding belonging to BDM that is used by volunteers during the week will be laundered. Mattresses will be sprayed with disinfectant spray which is EPA approved.
- At the end of the week all sleeping spaces will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces such as light switches and doorknobs will take place regularly.
- BDM will have touchless thermometers on site to use if a volunteer is suspected of having a fever.

- Hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) will be placed in appropriate locations in the facility used by BDM.
- Signage will be posted throughout the facility to remind volunteers and leadership to take steps to prevent the spread of illnesses. These will include information about:
 - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well with a list of symptoms.
 - Practicing good personal hygiene, including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
 - Signs will be posted next to the hand sanitizer that indicate that, when possible, washing your hands, especially if visibly dirty, is better than using hand sanitizer.

Restrooms and Showers

- All restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted using EPA-registered disinfectants, particularly on high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches.
- Cleaning and disinfecting products will be made readily available.
- Volunteers are requested to bring their personal care items to the restroom in a caddy or carrying case to limit surface contact in and around the sink.

Kitchen and Dining Room

- Hand sanitizer will be placed at the beginning of the meal serving line.
- All tables will be sanitized after each meal.
- Condiments will be located at the end of the meal line not at the individual tables.
- All plates, bowls, cups, glasses and utensils will be washed and sanitized in accordance with FDA guidelines using EPA approved products.
- All cooking utensils, pots, pans, etc. used in the preparation of meals will be washed and sanitized in accordance with FDA guidelines.
- All countertops, appliances, etc., will be cleaned and sanitized regularly in accordance with FDA guidelines.
- Each volunteer will be responsible for packing their own lunch in the designated area of the dining hall and placing it in the appropriate cooler.
- Individual coolers will be available for volunteers to use to take lunch to their job site. Volunteers may bring their own cooler or purchase a BDM lunch bag if preferred.

Vehicles & Trailers

- All vehicles will have a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) caddy with hand sanitizer, a container of wipes, nitrile gloves, cloth face coverings, and disposable face coverings.
- Weekly volunteers are not permitted in the tool trailers.

BDM Office and Paperwork

- Incoming BDM leadership will receive guidance and information regarding any other procedures in place by BDM in order to protect volunteers, fellow leaders, homeowners, partner agencies, local businesses, and the community at large.
- The BDM Office area will not be accessible to anyone other than leadership.
- During orientation, volunteers will be asked to sign up for devotions and helping with the evening dishwashing. The sign-up will occur on a “white board.”