



Church of the Brethren

BVS COVID-19 Consent Form

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) is a ministry program of Church of the Brethren, Inc. BVS is aware and constantly monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic especially as it affects and relates to how we can facilitate our in-person orientation. This will require great changes to our standard operating procedures to keep all volunteers and participants safe and to not add burden to the local communities still recovering.

As vaccination programs continue to roll out, travel restrictions are lifted, and updated medical research about COVID-19 becomes available, volunteers will be able to gather at our orientation sites with safety and precaution protocols thoroughly in place.

Volunteers who travel to our orientation sites and subsequent project placements MUST comply with ALL precautions. If you feel you are not able to comply or are not comfortable serving under these circumstances, you should not travel to volunteer with BVS at this time.

The following document outlines the required personal safety measures for the BVS orientation site, BVS Orientation Leadership, and volunteers before they arrive as well as at orientation. Further discussions about COVID-19 expectations will take place during orientation, as necessary. Additional protocol will also take place at each project location and will be shared upon arrival.

Volunteers must understand that orientation is a required 3 week in person event. This means that volunteers and BVS Orientation Leadership will be in close community with one another during this period of time. Orientation Leadership asks that all incoming volunteers carefully consider their own personal actions in the context of ensuring the wellbeing of others. Because we will be living in community with people with different medical needs, please utilize health and safety guidelines before and during travel to care for yourself and others (see examples below).

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

Refer to CDC website for the most up to date information—

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19.html>

COVID-19 Symptoms—

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

COVID-19 Procedure for Sickness –

If someone at BVS orientation should exhibit symptoms of COVID-19:

1. Orientation Leadership will work to follow local instructions on seeking care and obtaining testing and the local health district (of the orientation site) will be notified.
2. The person will be isolated in a separate housing facility, and symptoms will be closely monitored until the test result is confirmed.

If someone at BVS orientation should test positive for COVID-19 and exhibits symptoms:

1. The person testing positive will quarantine in a separate housing facility on the orientation site for 14 days. Symptoms will be closely monitored during this time.
2. Orientation Leadership reserves the right to seek out medical care for the person if they become extremely ill (see below for waiver statement).
3. Orientation Leadership will collect a contact tracing list for the group that includes all orientation participants, leadership, and others who had any contact of at least 15 minutes with any volunteers and public places that volunteers have been. Orientation Leadership will notify all of those outside of BVS of any potential contact in cooperation with state and local health depts.
4. Orientation Leadership will work with local health department guidelines to seek testing for others exhibiting symptoms.

COVID-19 Vaccinations –

Although the COVID-19 vaccination is not required to attend orientation, BVS strongly encourages all eligible people to get vaccinated. Several BVS project sites do require volunteers to have the COVID-19 vaccine in order to serve at their project location. Please discuss with Orientation Leadership if you have any questions or concerns. Orientation Leadership expects those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to still comply with the outlined required personal safety measures below. Even if you are vaccinated, not everyone attending orientation will have been vaccinated. These protocols aim to minimize transmission of COVID-19 as much as possible.

COVID-19 Testing Required for International Travel into the United States

This information applies to anyone entering into the United States from a foreign country.

As of January 26th, 2021, all air passengers arriving to the US from a foreign country must get tested no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to present the negative test result or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

Last Updated: May 3, 2021

Precautions Before and During Travel

Before Travel—DO NOT travel if:

- You have been in contact with someone in the last 14 days who has tested positive, you are waiting on a test result for COVID-19, or you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- There is a health safety order in effect in your home region, or you have traveled in the last 14 days to an area that is considered a hot spot with high or growing COVID-19 metrics.
- You are not comfortable being in close community with one another during orientation or observing ALL the safety protocols listed below when attending orientation.

During Travel:

- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds and always after touching public surfaces. When running water and soap are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching shared surfaces.
- Coughing or sneezing must be done into the elbow.
- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet apart should always be observed when around other people.
- Volunteers must wear face coverings when indoors, including in vehicles, in airplanes, and in airports. Everyone must wear a face covering in public settings and when around people, especially when physical distancing is difficult to maintain. When eating or drinking, etc., they must be at least 6 feet apart before removing a mask to do so.
- When in a vehicle, improve the ventilation if possible (for example, open the windows or set the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode).

Precautions at Orientation

- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet apart should always be observed when around other people.
- When the minimum of six feet apart is not possible outdoors, volunteers must wear face coverings. (i.e. masks that completely cover the nose and mouth).

Face coverings may always be required outdoors depending on the orientation location and local COVID-19 restrictions or requirements.

- Volunteers must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when indoors including in the housing facility (except when sleeping or showering or alone), in vehicles, at the orientation site, and when entering local businesses. When eating or drinking, etc., volunteers must be at least 6 feet apart before removing a mask to do so. Face coverings will be provided but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own masks from home to be used while traveling to the site (valve, N95 respirators, face shields not permitted).
 - BVS Orientation Leadership recognizes that we will become a household unit during our three week, in-person orientation. Once we have been together symptom-free for seven days, we will discuss as a community how to best proceed with COVID-19 expectations.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/living-in-close-quarters.html>
- Frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and/or wipe off gloves with a cleaning wipe while at orientation and especially before removing your mask or touching your face.
- When running water and soap are not available use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- BVS will provide touchless thermometers and all volunteers and Orientation Leadership will have their temperatures read each morning and evening. This will be recorded and monitored by BVS Orientation 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 Orientation Leadership immediately or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days after leaving orientation.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily agreeing to participate as a BVS volunteer with knowledge of the danger involved. I will assist Orientation 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 BVS or otherwise. I hereby indemnify, defend, and hold harmless BVS 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 BVS 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 BVS volunteer, whether arising out of the negligence of BVS or any Releasees or otherwise. I covenant not to make or bring any such claim against BVS or any other Releasee, and forever release and discharge BVS and all other Releasees from liability under such claims.

I, _____ have read and agree to abide by all above mentioned safety procedures at all times when at BVS Orientation. If I do not, I know I can be required to go home early.

Signature: _____ Date: _____