

WorldStrides Travel Requirements

The safety and security of our participants is, and always will be, our highest priority. To support travel in this new environment, WorldStrides has been reviewing every aspect of our programs from pre-departure all the way to a program's return home to help mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19.

Our Health & Safety team continues to closely monitor the situation and will adjust our protocols as needed. All protocols are guided by current recommendations from the CDC and our Medical Director, Dr. Neal Sikka. As your program approaches, you will receive additional information related to your program and will be informed of any changes.

As we proceed with your travel plans and itinerary, please review the below travel requirements for your program and the WorldStrides [COVID-19 Advisory](#).

Travel Requirements

- **Pre-departure Testing** – Participants must schedule a COVID-19 PCR test taken within 3-5 days OR an antigen test taken within 2 days of trip departure and submit test results to the Program Leader.
 - Testing requirements may vary based on destination.
 - Anyone receiving a positive test result will not be able to participate on the program. In this circumstance, they should not take a second test, since only the first result will be accepted.
- **Additional destination requirements** – If there are additional destination requirements, WorldStrides will provide specific guidance based on our program destination(s) in the coming weeks.
- **Testing exception for participants who have recovered** – If a participant has been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19 within 90 days of departure, they should provide documentation of recovery (proof of their positive test and a letter from a healthcare provider or a public health official stating that they are cleared to travel).
- **Close contacts** - If a participant has been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the program start date, they will not be able to participate and should stay home unless they meet an exception (e.g., fully vaccinated and have tested negative 3-5 days after exposure and are not experiencing symptoms; or recently recovered from COVID in the last 90 days).

Program Protocols

Pre-departure

- **Limit exposure to others** – Participants are asked to limit time outside their home for 14 days prior to travel, with the exception of going to school or work or engaging in other essential activities. Please strictly observe COVID-19 safety protocols (masking, social distancing, and hand washing) and avoid large gatherings and crowded spaces.

On-program

- **Daily symptom checks** – Participants will be asked several questions about how they are feeling to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
- **Mask requirement** – Masks will be required throughout the duration of the trip in all indoor spaces and on the motorcoach, **regardless of vaccination status**. Participants may remove their masks when engaging in outdoor activities where social distancing from others not with the group can be maintained, provided that state, local, or venue requirements are met. WorldStrides will provide participants with one disposable mask per day for each day of the program. These masks will be shipped to me prior to departure. Participants should bring their own masks as well.

- **Illness on-program** – If a participant exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, WorldStrides will help them get tested and safely separate from the rest of the group while awaiting the results. I will be in close contact with you as I work with WorldStrides to make arrangements for the participant's care plan. WorldStrides will make every effort to secure quarantine/isolation accommodations in the same location as the group, although this may not always be possible. The participant's testing and medical expenses should be covered by insurance. As a reminder, WorldStrides recommends that all participants bring a copy of their insurance card and use their insurance as primary. WorldStrides will cover the participant's lodging and meal expenses during the quarantine/isolation period. If the diagnosed participant is a minor, WorldStrides will arrange and cover the cost of a flight for a parent/guardian to join their student at the program location.

- **Contact Tracing, Testing and Quarantine** – In the event a participant experiences symptoms of COVID-19, WorldStrides working with their Doctors on Call or local health officials will provide guidance to the group to reduce the risk of additional exposure. Everyone's cooperation will be appreciated under these circumstances. I will work with WorldStrides to identify the roommates of the participant experiencing symptoms and any others within the group who may have been in close contact with the participant. Per CDC guidelines:
 - Participants who are not fully vaccinated will be required to take a COVID-19 test and quarantine even if the test result is negative and they are not experiencing any symptoms.
 - Fully vaccinated participants* identified as close contacts will not be required to quarantine. However, they will need to take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure.

WorldStrides will help coordinate testing of any additional participants as needed, and I will be in close contact with you if your participant is impacted. If the close contacts' quarantine will end after the program end date, they may be able to complete their quarantine at home if a guardian or another responsible adult can drive to pick them up.

***What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?**

According to the CDC, in general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- *2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or*
- *2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine*

If you don't meet these requirements, you are NOT fully vaccinated. For more information, visit the CDC's website [here](#).