



COVID-19 MISSION GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Alliance for Smiles (AfS). As we prepare to resume in-person missions, we are making every effort to keep volunteers, patients, families, and local staff safe and healthy, and to ensure that the missions run smoothly.

Volunteering on an AfS mission during the continuing pandemic will be different. There will be new guidelines and protocols in nearly every area of the mission experience, from entry requirements to patient numbers, to hotels and transportation.

These new guidelines have been put in place to prioritize health and safety. This is an evolving situation, and protocols may change before or during your mission. We ask that you be flexible and understanding.

PREPARING FOR THE MISSION

VACCINATIONS

Effective immediately, AfS will require that all volunteers be fully vaccinated in order to serve on a medical mission. This includes any boosters recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Proof of vaccination will be required before a volunteer is placed on a team. AfS will also require all staff at the local hospital to be vaccinated.

VOLUNTEERS EXPOSED TO COVID-19 OR EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS PRIOR TO A MISSION

We ask that volunteers withdraw from the trip if they have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within 14 days of the trip departure date, **even if they are not experiencing symptoms**. Additionally, if a volunteer is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and they have not received medical clearance, we ask that they withdraw from the trip. In these cases, the Mission Participation Contribution will be refunded (see below*).

MISSION CANCELTION BY AFS

In the current environment conditions are changing rapidly, and AfS may need to cancel a mission at short notice. AfS will not provide any form of financial compensation to volunteers for expenses incurred or salary lost, with the exception of the \$450 Mission Participation Contribution; this contribution will be refunded to the volunteer or transferred to a future mission that the volunteer may join.

VOLUNTEER WITHDRAWING FROM A MISSION

We understand that it may be necessary to withdraw from a mission if a volunteer unexpectedly contracts COVID-19 or is exposed to someone who has within 14 days of a mission. We ask that all volunteers do their utmost to avoid exposure prior to and during a mission, but we know that it is sometimes unavoidable. If this should happen, we can refund the volunteer's \$450 Mission Participation Contribution or transfer it to a future mission that the volunteer may join.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

AfS will follow all country-specific requirements for the country where the mission is taking place, as well as all recommendations for the destination country by the United State Department of State (DOS) and the Centers



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for Disease Control (CDC). We also recommend that all volunteers check these guidelines themselves at the below links.

DOS: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

CDC: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

GUIDELINES WHILE ON SITE

TRAVEL TO/FROM SITE

AfS will make every effort to limit the number of hotels that volunteers must stay in. This will most likely involve arriving in country and traveling to the final destination on the same day, and at the end of the mission leaving the site and flying out of the country on the same day. Due to these concerns all volunteers should arrive in and leave from the country on the same day as the rest of the team. **It is the strong preference of AfS that all team members fly in and out together. If a volunteer wishes to engage in personal travel *after* the mission, they must sign a form indicating that Alliance for Smiles is not responsible for their health and safety once they separate from the team.**

ROOMMATES

Until further notice, volunteers will be assigned single rooms, except for volunteers who are currently members of the same household. If two volunteers who aren't members of the same household wish to room together, they will be required to sign a form waiving Alliance for Smiles of responsibility should they believe they contracted COVID-19 from their roommate.

SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

AfS will make every effort to ensure the safety and health of all patients, families, and volunteers. Each patient will be limited to bringing a single guardian as accompaniment. Each patient and guardian will be isolated from others as much as possible, including during clinic. Due to this policy, it is possible that fewer patients will be treated than on previous missions.

COVID-19 TESTING OF PATIENTS AND GUARDIANS

Patients and guardians will receive a COVID-19 test at triage and again before surgery or dental treatment (if applicable). All patients, families, and team members will have a temperature-check/symptom-screening before they are allowed entry to the hospital.

MASKS & PPE

N95 masks must be worn at all times outside of the hotel. No cloth masks will be allowed. During surgery AfS will follow the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for proper PPE use and will provide the appropriate PPE to all team members.

VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WHILE ON A MISSION

COVID-19 (Antigen or PCR) testing will be provided if required at our partner hospitals. Team members will be tested on site at the hospital in the event of symptoms. (See below section on RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES)

RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES

REQUIREMENTS FOR FLIGHTS TO THE UNITED STATES

As of January 12, 2021, the CDC requires all US Citizens returning to the United States from a foreign country to provide proof of a negative antigen or PCR COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before travel, or to show documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 (proof of a recent positive viral test and a letter from your healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).

QUARANTINE/ISOLATION

If a volunteer tests positive for COVID-19 while on a mission, they are required by the CDC to self-isolate until it is safe for them to be around others, usually 10 days after the first positive test. AfS will make the necessary hotel and flight arrangements for this period of isolation. Please read the full CDC guidelines on isolation here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#isolation>

HOSPITALIZATION OF TEAM MEMBERS

If a volunteer requires care for symptoms of COVID-19, AfS will arrange for transportation and admission to a local hospital.