



Pura Vida Ministries
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Special Requirements for Guatemala team members during COVID-19 pandemic (as of April 1, 2022)

As the world begins to make long-term adjustments to COVID-19, we are making plans to resume work trips to Guatemala. The guidelines below are based on current government requirements and the realities of the pandemic in the rural areas where we work.

Expect these requirements to change as the U.S. and Guatemala modify their policies.

1. General requirements for trip members

- **Completion of COVID vaccination regimen (Pfizer/Moderna/JNJ) is required for all team members**
- COVID testing is required before returning to the U.S.
- Masks are currently required for air travel. Masks are still very much in use in Guatemala City, Antigua, and population centers in the western highlands, and are required by law in many circumstances. Masks are currently required:
 - in airports and during flight
 - in common spaces in hotels and restaurants
 - outdoors in public spaces
- Team members are responsible for handling logistics arising from a positive COVID test result when returning to the U.S. (see section 3 below)

2. While in Guatemala

Entry to Guatemala is possible with evidence of receiving a complete two-dose COVID-19 vaccination course (or one dose for Johnson & Johnson), with the final dose being administered at least two weeks before beginning your trip to Guatemala.

Our staff in Guatemala has been vaccinated, but many are still extremely wary of catching the virus. In addition, many of the families that we work with will not be vaccinated due to cultural and personal reasons. **We must be attentive to how our hosts are behaving, and be ready to use masks accordingly.**

General guidelines:

- Masks should be used in indoor spaces with families
- When working in open outdoor spaces, masks are not required
- We need to be attentive to the sensitivities of the families, wearing a mask when needed
- Hand sanitizer should be available on site

Visiting your sponsored Student

Since this is such an important part of these trips, we are hoping to make these visits possible by ensuring students are vaccinated and the above guidelines are followed. Our students are often the first members of their families to be vaccinated, which is a good sign.

3. Returning to the U.S.

The U.S. requires COVID testing (antigen/PCR) a maximum of 24 hours before travel. You will need to arrange for testing to be done the day before your return flight to the U.S.

- COVID test (antigen/PCR) no more than 24 hours before travel, or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days, before boarding flight.
 - There are places in Antigua that can do this. We will give you updated information.
 - Cost is about Q300 (\$40)
 - Ask the testing center to provide a printed copy of the results, since the check-in at Guatemala is currently requiring this.

If you test positive for COVID-19 prior to returning to the U.S.:

- You are required to quarantine in a local hotel for a week or until you test negative.
- You will need documentation of recovery:
 - A signed letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official that states you have been cleared for travel according to CDC's travel guidance.
 - The positive test result. Proof of a positive test result issued at most 90 days before departure (results must state "positive" or "detected" – tests marked "invalid" will not be accepted)
 - The traveler's name and other identifying details matching those on the traveler's passport

Note that since Pura Vida does not have staff in the areas near Antigua or Guatemala City, you will be on your own to arrange for lodging, transportation, and documentation of recovery. We will try to assist as needed from the U.S., but prepare to be self-sufficient.

Additional Information from external sources:

From [United Airlines](#):

If you test positive for COVID-19: No travel for 10 days after the start of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, 10 days after the day the positive test was taken. Day 0 is the day you took the positive test or the first day of symptoms, and Day 1 is the first full day following. You may not travel until Day 11

Latest U.S. re-entry requirements from [the CDC](#):

- Airlines will refuse to board anyone who does not present a negative test result for COVID-19 or documentation of recovery.
- CDC: Do not travel until a full 10 days after your symptoms started or the date your positive test was taken if you had no symptoms.