



**Pura Vida Ministries**  
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**Special Requirements for Guatemala  
team members during COVID-19 pandemic  
(as of September 12, 2022)**

As the world begins to make long-term adjustments to COVID-19, we are beginning 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 not currently required before returning to the U.S.
- Masks are not currently required for air travel. However, 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. In Guatemala, masks may be required:
  - in airports and during flight
  - in common spaces in hotels and restaurants
  - outdoors in public spaces
- If the CDC reinstates testing requirements for re-entry to the U.S., 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. 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; or
- Proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen test from a certified lab conducted no more than three (3) days prior to check in at the airport or arrival at the land border.

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. does not currently require COVID testing for re-entry after foreign travel.** However, if things change, the following procedures will look something like this:

- 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 was previously requiring this.

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

- You would likely be required to quarantine in a local hotel for a week or until you test negative.
- You would 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 would 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.