

COVID-19: Program Staff Guide for Responding to Potential and Confirmed Cases On-Program

The following guidelines have been created by the WorldStrides Health & Safety Team, in conjunction with our Medical Director from the George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine, to support participants who experience symptoms while on their program.

Field Protocols

Our Program staff will understand the COVID-19 protocols in their location, will follow the instructions of GW Docs, and seek guidance from the Health & Safety Team. Program staff and Program Leaders/Chaperones should take precautions for their own health prior to assisting an ill participant.

Initial Steps for Program Staff to Follow

If a participant or someone on their behalf reports some combination of COVID-19 symptoms as designated by the [CDC](#) (e.g., fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, etc.):

- Immediately inform WorldStrides On Call
- WorldStrides On Call will initiate a GW Docs phone consultation, which will trigger an automatic notification to the Health & Safety Team.
- Share details on ill participant (name, DOB, symptoms, etc.) as well as the following information regarding COVID-19:
 - Participant's medical history
 - Travel history (during and prior to this trip)
 - Known history of interaction with anyone who has been isolated/diagnosed with COVID-19
- Separate the participant from the rest of the group as soon as possible (identify a chaperone to remain with the participant if minor).
- Keep a 6-foot distance between the participant and others.
- Strictly adhere to masking and social distancing protocols.
- Secure additional hotel room(s) as needed. Ill participants must have their own room.
- Follow medical advice from GW Docs and facilitate COVID-19 testing for the participant.
- Ensure Program Leader contacts the responsible party for the participant (if minor), keeps them informed of the situation, and is prepared to share the participant's personal insurance information with medical professionals if needed.

Steps to Take While Waiting for Results

- The participant must remain separated (quarantined) from others while waiting for test results. The participant cannot join the group or interact with others during this time.
- In consultation with GW Docs, begin contact tracing to determine if other participants in the group will need to be tested and/or quarantined if the test result is positive.

Note: The terms "isolation" and "quarantine" are often used interchangeably, but they have different meanings.

- "Isolation" is for persons who are confirmed to have COVID-19 and must separate from others who have not been infected by COVID-19.
- "Quarantine" is for persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and should stay away from others for the recommended time frame.

Diagnosis

- In the event of a negative test result:
 - Participant should continue to monitor symptoms and alert Program Leader/Chaperone if they continue to feel ill.
 - Participant must remain at the hotel while sick and keep away from others as much as possible. Cleaning and hygiene protocols should be closely followed.
 - Participant must follow the advice of GW Docs and will not be allowed to return to the group until medically cleared to do so.
- In the event of a positive diagnosis:
 - Facilitate immediate isolation of the participant and follow the instructions of GW Docs.
 - Continue contact tracing in collaboration with GW Docs to determine if others in the group need to be tested and/or quarantined.
 - 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.
 - Program Leader will maintain contact with the responsible party of the participant (if minor).
 - Additional communications:
 - Program Leader to communicate with group participants and their responsible parties (with WorldStrides support).
 - Health & Safety to communicate with vendors (hotels, meals, motorcoach, etc.) and other field staff as needed.
- If the participant is a minor and unable to continue on the program, a Chaperone MUST remain with the participant (strictly following masking and social distancing protocols) until arrangements have been made for the responsible party to join their student at the program location.

Participant Support While in Quarantine or Isolation

- Maintain regular contact with participant or Chaperone (if minor) via phone or video chat and provide updates to WorldStrides On Call.
- Make arrangements for meals to be delivered.
- Ensure access to Wi-Fi and any necessary medications.
- GW Docs to provide continuous follow up to monitor participant's health and recovery.
- Remind participant and chaperone of the mental health support that is available through the AXA Behavioral Health Program.

Recovery and Return Home

- Program staff should follow guidance from GW Docs in planning for participant and Chaperone (if minor) return home.
- Medical clearance documentation should be received. A negative test is not required to exit isolation unless required by local authorities.
- Once approved to exit isolation or quarantine, WorldStrides will make return travel arrangements.

*** 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](#).