

# OSI Short Term Trips

## Guidelines and Requirements: COVID-19

*updated 06/15/2022*



**Vaccination Policy Explanation:** Given the existing hesitancy toward the vaccine and our enforcement of this policy we have been asked why we are making it a requirement for travel. The reason is twofold:

1. **Vaccine Requirements:** You will be traveling to a third world country that has an extremely dense population; there is an elevated risk of contracting a highly social contagion. More countries are requiring proof of vaccination in order to avoid mandatory quarantine upon arrival. Often these changes are taking place with little notice. Given that most of our short-term trips are only 7 days long, and being subject to a government-mandated quarantine would make most trips unviable. By requiring our trip members to be vaccinated, we reduce the risk of having to cancel trips. Some countries are ever changing their entry requirements to their country but the United States maintains concern of bringing COVID back upon your return
2. **Test, Quarantine and Medical Costs:** The United States, has now lifted the requirement for you have to test negative for COVID-19 before entering. We ask that each person bring their own at Home test to test if they are symptomatic throughout the week of serving and take a test prior to travel to secure the safety for all. Requiring the vaccine reduces the risk of team members contracting the virus while on the trip and then having to remain in-country for until they recover. Trip members who test positive for COVID while on the trip will remain in country until they can test negative. While breakthrough infections are still possible with the vaccine, the risk is at least reduced. **You will be responsible for the additional cost of:** extended hotel stay, food, medicine, any additional quick response PCR test, and any hospital expenses (you pay cash in advance of treatment, when you return to the US you can turn your expenses into your insurance company for reimbursement).

In light of the global concerns regarding COVID-19 and the different variants, varying guidelines around the world, and our desire to maintain the standard of health and safety that we have become know for, OSI has adopted the following guidelines and requirements for short term mission trips.

### **All team members and leaders to join a team are required to:**

- Submit a completed application, pastoral reference, and \$25 application fee
- Sign the liability waiver provided by OSI
- Provide proof of completed vaccination against COVID-19
- Submit to the OSI Office a copy of proof of vaccination and travel with vaccination card
- Comply with OSI guidelines while in-country as to Personal Protective Equipment

### **All team members and leaders should familiarize themselves with:**

- CDC guidelines for international travel
- Current safety regulations and recommendations for entering a foreign country and returning to the United States – including state entry requirements and COVID restrictions
- Airline understand their requirements including COVID test, mask requirements, etc.

### **Additional recommendations from OSI:**

- Wear a mask inside when in shared and confined spaces i.e. bus, meeting rooms, exam spaces, taxis' and when required while traveling through airports and on planes
- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content)