

NPH INTERNATIONAL

VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID-19

GUIDELINES



MARCH 2021



NPH
INTERNATIONAL

I. INTRODUCTION



The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected communities around the world, and the NPH family is no exception. Nonetheless, the NPH International Volunteer Program has never ceased to operate because we know that volunteers are an indispensable part of our mission. We continue to invite those around the world who are interested in dedicating a year abroad to NPH's mission to join us—we need you now more than ever.

In nearly every area of our work, we are all learning to plan for the future with much greater degrees of uncertainty. The same holds true for NPH's volunteer program. We have adapted the program to a new normal under COVID-19, so as to ensure the safety of the children, youth, and families we care for and support, as well as to ensure the safety and well-being of the volunteers.

The region where we work has been hit hard by the virus and its devastating social and economic consequences. Nonetheless, thanks to the diligent work of our health teams as well as the collaboration of all, we continue to ensure that NPH homes remain healthy and safe environments.

We ask that volunteers join us in ensuring that the NPH community continues to prosper despite the pandemic. This means following bio-security rules and protocols that were not necessary prior to the pandemic. Simple rules such as requiring that all adults wear face coverings while working have allowed us to keep the NPH family safe and healthy during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested every family and community around the world. At NPH, we remain steadfast in our belief that if we come together in solidarity as the global family that we are, we will overcome this tough test. Thank you for your willingness to serve the NPH family. If we all continue to follow the rules and guidelines established by our leaders, we will continue to ensure the health and well-being of all in the NPH homes and programs.

The International Volunteer Program continues to be a hallmark of NPH's values. Though we have had to make adjustments to the program, it remains an integral part of the NPH mission, and we continue to welcome qualified professionals who are able to give a year of their lives in service to others.



INFECTION:

- Volunteers have access to primary healthcare services provided by the NPH clinics at no cost to the volunteer.
- Volunteers who become infected with COVID-19 will be evaluated by the NPH health team in-situ. The volunteer and the health team will decide whether the volunteer can be treated at NPH or should seek care outside of NPH.
- NPH purchases health insurance with international coverage for all volunteers. Any costs related to COVID-19 treatment not covered by the volunteer's insurance must be paid for by the volunteer.
- Positive COVID-19 test results are reported to the government of the country. Therefore, volunteers will be subjected to the processes and protocols of the government of the country of service, including but not limited to contact tracing and quarantine.



VACCINES:

- Countries where NPH operates are beginning to plan and implement COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. Each country's government is deciding which vaccines to purchase and which population groups will be prioritized for vaccination. Ask your local volunteer coordinator for more information on the country where you will serve.
- NPH International does not require that volunteers be vaccinated prior to beginning service, though some NPH offices do require the volunteers they send to be vaccinated. If the volunteer has the opportunity to receive the vaccination prior to joining NPH, we strongly encourage the volunteer to do so. If you are vaccinated, please bring your vaccine card with you when you travel to NPH.
- Volunteers may have the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in the country of service. The availability of vaccines varies by country. Volunteers must assume any costs of vaccination not covered by their insurance or by the government.
- Volunteers who are vaccinated must still engage in all prevention methods listed on the previous page under the section "Prevention."

For more information about COVID-19, visit www.who.int



VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID-19 GUIDELINES

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE NPH INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID-19 GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Latin America during COVID-19
- Quarantine
- Mask Use
- COVID-19 Tests
- Mobility Inside and Outside of the NPH home
- Anti-COVID-19 Prevention Measures
- Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19 Infection
- Infection by COVID-19
- COVID-19 Vaccines
- Mental Health during NPH Volunteer Service

FURTHERMORE, I UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING:

- I accept full responsibility for my actions, my safety, and my well-being during my volunteer service.
- I am able to terminate my volunteer year with NPH early out of concern for my health and well-being. I will assume full financial responsibility for my return home.
- I understand that border closings around the world are possible and could prevent my ability to exit the country of volunteer service or return to my country of origin.
- I understand that NPH homes implement health and safety protocols which I must strictly follow with no exception.
- I am aware that the public health system in Latin America and the Caribbean are unsuited to adequately respond to a pandemic and to care for me if I were to get sick and need hospital care.
- I understand that NPH protocols will dramatically limit my mobility, work, and recreational activities.
- I understand that public health officials may issue proclamations with which I will be required to comply.

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____