



Earthwatch Institute  
1380 Soldiers Field Rd., Suite 2700  
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## Earthwatch COVID-19 Disclosure & Acknowledgement Form

Earthwatch is pleased to welcome you into the field to participate in hands-on field science. Before you join one of our expeditions or programs, we want to be sure you understand how we are responding to the coronavirus pandemic so you can make informed decisions about whether you feel comfortable to participate. Earthwatch collaborates with our scientists and partners around the world, and continually monitors health and travel guidance and advisories from trusted authorities (such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. State Department, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the independent company that advises us on international security issues) to assess and inform our operational decisions, policies and procedures.

While contracting a virus or other communicable disease has always been an inherent risk of everyday life and travel, contracting COVID-19 (the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2) or related variants, is new for everyone. The risk of contracting it cannot be eliminated but we are taking numerous steps to reduce transmission. The pandemic is an evolving situation and our decisions and practices may change at any time as we learn new information, or recommendations from authorities change. We will use our best judgment to make changes to our expeditions or programs in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 (or other illnesses) for our participants, staff, scientists, field staff and the local communities in which we work. It is possible changes will happen at the last minute or during your expedition or program. Contact an Earthwatch staff member if you have specific questions about your Earthwatch expedition or program.

### BEFORE FIELDING

**As of September 1, 2021, all participants, facilitators, Earthwatch scientists and Field Team Leaders on Earthwatch teams ("Team members") must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**

As per CDC guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received all required doses of a vaccine that is currently authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization (e.g. Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, or AstraZeneca/Oxford).

You must provide proof of full vaccination to Earthwatch prior to participation in your expedition or program. If you arrive at your expedition or program without having done so, you will not be allowed to participate until you can provide Earthwatch with verification of your full vaccination.

**Do not travel to your Earthwatch expedition or program if you have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell), have been in close contact with someone suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19, or you are confirmed or suspected as having COVID-19 in the past 14 days.** We request that you continue to take steps, such as wearing a mask as appropriate, to limit your exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for at least 14 days prior to your expedition or program and while traveling to your expedition or program. We may have additional rules. Consult your Online Expedition Briefing and Expedition Logistics Document before participating for more information.

We highly recommend that all people who have a weakened immune system or are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as defined by the CDC, consult with their health care provider about whether to participate in an Earthwatch expedition or program at this time.

All participants will be screened which may include questions about symptoms, recent travel and exposure to others who have been sick prior to participation. Based on this screening, Earthwatch may cancel your participation. In the event of a cancellation (by you or by Earthwatch), you will have the option to transfer to another expedition or transfer your funds into an Expedition Fund that you can use towards a future Earthwatch Expedition within the next three years. We will always work with you based on your individual situation.



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## IN THE FIELD

Earthwatch may require you to take certain precautions while in the field, and changes may be made to your expedition or program at any time while you are in the field to mitigate the spread of disease, enhance the well-being of your team, or respond to conditions in the fielding country or in the US including travel restrictions or logistical considerations.

Currently, face masks will be required outdoors only when physical distancing (staying at least six feet/two meters apart from others) cannot be maintained with people from outside of the team (unless otherwise directed by the PI/team leader or local authorities).

Indoors, face masks will be required for all Team members when physical distancing is not possible. You are required to bring multiple masks for your personal use.

Personal hygiene, particularly hand washing, is an effective way to reduce the transmission of coronavirus. You must wash your hands frequently throughout the expedition or program, including before meals. Hand soap will be provided on site, but you will be expected to bring ample personal hand sanitizer with you to carry on your person and use as necessary when water is unavailable.

You will be expected to answer questions regarding symptoms and take your temperature on a daily basis. You must bring a personal thermometer into the field to help monitor your health. You must report any COVID-like symptoms to program staff right away. If anyone has symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival or during an Earthwatch Expedition or program, we will separate that person from the group and seek medical advice. We may ask you to get tested.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to the expedition or program. You may be asked to leave if you exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, and we will make other decisions about who must leave the expedition or program or who is allowed to return based on a case-by-case analysis.

If a minor tests positive or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while on an expedition, we will follow the advice of a medical professional. In the event they need to quarantine, they will be required to depart the expedition and a parent or guardian will be required to take over their care, preferably within 24-hours, but no later than 48 hours.

In the event you must depart the expedition or program because of COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, Earthwatch will help you find and get to medical care, make phone calls on your behalf, arrange transportation, open an insurance claim on your behalf with our medical insurance, and/or consult with our security assistance provider as necessary. Earthwatch has many years of experience with incident management and emergency response. We will support you throughout any incident, but any expenses associated with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, including additional transportation, medical care or quarantine, such as accommodations for 14 days or more that are not covered by insurance will be your responsibility.

If you test positive within 14 days after your expedition you must notify Earthwatch. We will notify you should someone test positive on your expedition or within 14 days after the expedition. We will try to protect the identity of the person who tests positive, but please understand that may not always be possible.

Your compliance and diligence will be required in order for these measures to be effective. If you do not comply with these expectations, or your behavior is judged to be a threat to the health and/or safety of you or anyone on your team, you may be removed from the expedition or program. You will be responsible for the costs associated with your early departure in this scenario and will not receive a refund or credit.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us maintain the well-being of your team.



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I (OR THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A MINOR) HAVE CAREFULLY READ, UNDERSTAND, AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS DOCUMENT.

Participant Name:		Date of Birth: (dd-MON-yyyy)	
Participant Signature:		Date of Signature: (dd-MON-yyyy)	

Name(s) of custodial parent or legal guardian:		
Relationship to the Participant:		
Signature(s) of custodial parent or legal guardian:		
Date of Signature: (dd-MON-yyyy)		