

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. 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.

Earthwatch collaborates with our scientists and partners around the world, and continually monitors health and travel guidance 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. We will use this guidance and 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.

The pandemic is an evolving situation and our requirements, decisions and practices may change at any time as we learn new information or recommendations from authorities change. It is possible changes will happen at the last minute or during your expedition or program. Please contact Earthwatch if you have questions about your specific program.

VACCINATIONS

Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 is required for all Team members on Earthwatch expeditions and programs.

This includes all participants (volunteers, fellows, adults, and teens), facilitators, Earthwatch scientists, Field Team Leaders, Earthwatch staff and visitors. Proof of full vaccination must be provided to Earthwatch prior to participation. 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.

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 (FDA) or the World Health Organization. When a participant or field staff resides in a country where FDA or WHO-approved vaccines are not available, Earthwatch will assess the situation on a case-by-case basis.

Earthwatch encourages you to stay up-to-date with your vaccinations, including receiving booster doses if available.

BEFORE FIELDING

We recommend that you continue to take steps to limit your exposure prior to your program, such as wearing a mask, during the entire journey to the program site.

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) or have had a suspected or confirmed exposure to COVID-19 in the past 10 days.

In the event of a cancellation due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19, 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.

We highly recommend that everyone, particularly those with 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.

PRECAUTIONS IN THE FIELD

If local conditions or recommendations from authorities change, additional requirements may be implemented. Your specific expedition or program may have additional rules or recommendations regarding COVID-19. Please consult your Online Expedition Briefing and Expedition Logistics Document before participating for more information.

You may be required to take certain precautions while in the field, such as wearing masks, frequent hand-washing and physical distancing. You must bring a personal thermometer, multiple face masks and ample hand sanitizer with you for your personal use in case they are needed. Masks rated to be more effective (such as N95, KN95 or equivalent) are strongly recommended.

The use of face masks will be mandatory when: required by law; requested by program leaders or service providers (such as accommodations or transport providers); or deemed appropriate based on local conditions.

Earthwatch supports a mask-friendly environment on all programs and any individual who wishes to continue to mask will be supported in that decision.

IN THE EVENT OF SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST

You will be expected to monitor your own health on a daily basis and report any COVID-like symptoms to program staff right away. We may ask you to get tested and/or seek medical advice. Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, upon arrival or during an Earthwatch program, will be required to isolate until a negative PCR test is received. Testing timing, distance, availability and cost vary by location.

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 supervision and care, preferably within 24-hours, but no later than 48 hours. This may require a parent/guardian travel to the quarantine location to stay with the child. Any expenses not covered by Earthwatch's travel insurance policy will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

In the event you must depart due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, Earthwatch will help you find and get to medical care, arrange transportation, open an insurance claim on your behalf with our medical insurance, and/or consult with our emergency assistance provider as necessary. 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 10 days after your expedition you must notify Earthwatch. We will notify you should someone test positive on your expedition or within 10 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.

COMPLIANCE

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.