

## 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 would like to share our practices and expectations around coronavirus protocols so you can make informed decisions about whether you feel comfortable to participate. The risk of contracting COVID-19 (the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2) or related variants cannot be eliminated but we are taking 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 our independent travel medical and security advisor. 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.

**While the public health emergency has ended, COVID-19 remains an evolving risk to our participants, staff, scientists and the communities in which we work.** Our requirements, decisions and practices may change at any time, including at the last minute or during your expedition or program, as we learn new information or recommendations from authorities change. Please contact Earthwatch if you have questions about your specific program.

### VACCINATIONS

For teams fielding from January 1, 2024, onward, Earthwatch will no longer collect proof of vaccination against COVID-19 from participants or project staff.

However, there may be individual programs that continue to require proof of Covid vaccination, due to program-specific circumstances. Programs that require proof of Covid vaccination prior to fielding will be clearly marked on the project webpage and Online Expedition Briefings. Please contact Earthwatch if you have questions about your specific program.

**Earthwatch strongly encourages everyone to stay up-to-date with your vaccinations, including booster doses if available.**

### BEFORE FIELDING

**Please test for COVID-19 within 24 – 48 hours prior to travelling to your expedition.**

**If you test positive**, call Earthwatch immediately for next steps.

**Do not travel to your Earthwatch expedition or program if you have tested positive for COVID-19**, and you have not met the [CDC's requirements for ending isolation](#) and masking.

Earthwatch is maintaining flexible transfer options in order to encourage responsible participation. In the event of a cancellation due to a documented positive test for COVID-19 *prior to travel*, you will have the option to transfer to another expedition or transfer your contribution into an Expedition Fund for future use. We will always work with you based on your individual situation.

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. We highly recommend that everyone, particularly those at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, consult with their health care provider about whether to participate in an Earthwatch expedition or program at this time.

**You must bring a supply of face masks, COVID tests, a thermometer and hand sanitizer with you for your personal use.** Masks rated as more effective (such as N95 or equivalent) are strongly recommended.

## PRECAUTIONS DURING THE PROGRAM

If local conditions or recommendations from authorities change, additional requirements may be implemented.

Project staff have the right to require testing for COVID-19 and/or the use of face masks, either for individuals or for the team as a whole. You may be asked to test upon arrival at your expedition. You will be expected to monitor your own health on a daily basis and report any COVID-like symptoms to program staff right away.

The use of face masks will be optional except when: requested by program leaders or service providers (such as accommodations or transport providers); required by law; or deemed appropriate based on local conditions. Earthwatch supports a mask-friendly environment on all programs. In settings where masks are optional, any individual who prefers to continue to mask will be supported in that decision.

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.

## IN THE EVENT OF SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST DURING THE PROGRAM

You may be asked to wear a mask, test for COVID-19, seek medical advice, isolate/quarantine in accordance to local or CDC guidelines, and/or take other precautions in the event that you, or another person on site, displays symptoms of illness or tests positive for COVID-19 upon arrival or during the Earthwatch program

Isolation/quarantine is often not possible at the program location, so you may be asked to leave the program in order to do so. Testing requirements, distance, availability and cost vary by location.

You will be responsible for any expenses associated with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, including testing, medical care, medications, additional transportation, or quarantine costs (such as accommodations for 5 days or more) that are not covered by insurance.

In the event you must isolate or depart from a program due to COVID-19 or other illness, you will not be entitled to a refund of the contribution for the program, nor any expenses incurred by participation on the program. We strongly encourage you to purchase travel insurance that will cover this eventuality.

Earthwatch will help you find and get to medical care, arrange transportation, open an insurance claim, and/or consult with our emergency assistance provider as appropriate. Prescriptions for medication must be issued directly to the patient; project staff cannot obtain prescriptions for medication on behalf of a participant. Earthwatch and Team Leaders will make decisions about testing, masking, and isolation, including who must leave the expedition or program, or who is allowed to return based on guidance from the appropriate authorities and on a case-by-case analysis.

If a minor must depart from an expedition in order to isolate/quarantine, 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 the parent/guardian travel to the child's location. Any expenses not covered by insurance will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

If you test positive within 10 days after your expedition, please notify Earthwatch. Likewise, we will notify you should we discover a team member of yours has tested positive.

## 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.



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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:<br>(dd-MON-yyyy)     |  |
| Participant Signature: |  | Date of Signature:<br>(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:<br>(dd-MON-yyyy)                 |  |  |