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Honduras Medical Missions COVID-19 Volunteer FAQs

What kind of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided to volunteers in the surgery center? Will I have access to N-95 masks?

Volunteers will be provided with one N-95 mask to be re-used throughout the week. N-95 masks are not fit-tested. Volunteer will also be provided with surgical masks (daily), a face shield, surgical caps (daily), scrubs, shoe covers and gloves.

Should I plan to bring any PPE with me?

Volunteers should bring a reusable mask to wear for the duration of travel and while on the NPH property, as there is a universal masking order in place in Honduras. Volunteers should also bring hand sanitizer for use during travel, as required by the Honduran government. If you have access to additional PPE, your donation would be greatly appreciated, as it will help us extend our current inventory. If you plan to bring PPE beyond your personal use, please contact medicalmissions@oneworldsurgery.org so we can secure customs approval.

Are patients tested for COVID-19 before surgery or consults?

A rapid test is performed on all surgical patients. Diagnoses may be confirmed with a PCR test, if available and directed by our local physicians. All surgical and clinic patients are screened for symptoms and exposure by phone 14, 7, and 1 day prior to their appointment. Patients undergo additional symptom and exposure screenings, including vital sign checks, upon entering the NPH property and again when entering the surgery center.

Will volunteers be tested and/or screened for COVID-19 prior to arrival? What are the requirements for entering Honduras?

Negative COVID-19 test results are required for entry into Honduras. Anti-body rapid, antigen rapid, and RT-PCR tests are accepted. Rapid tests must have a minimum of 85% specificity and 98% sensitivity. Tests must be taken no more than 72 hours before your last direct flight to Honduras. Results must indicate the type of test taken. Carry multiple copies of testing documentation; travelers may be asked to turn it in at check-in, upon boarding each flight, and at immigration. Travelers must complete the electronic pre-check form at <https://prechequeo.inm.gob.hn> prior to arriving in and departing from Honduras. Print the confirmation email, and carry it with you during travel. The Honduran government currently requires universal masking, use of hand sanitizer, and adherence to social distancing guidelines.

What will happen if I present with COVID-19 symptoms during my trip? Will I have access to testing? Where will I receive care? Will I be permitted to return home?

Volunteers who present with COVID-19 symptoms or have a prolonged exposure without PPE to someone with a confirmed case will be required to follow COVID-19 quarantine guidelines. Access to PCR testing may be limited. Approved volunteers will receive the "Volunteer COVID-19 Screening, Quarantine, and Return to Home Country Procedures" document by e-mail which includes further details.

What other safety measures are being taken in the surgery center and visitor center?

Staff and volunteers undergo a daily symptom and exposure screening upon entering the surgery center. The daily patient volume is limited, as well as the number of staff and volunteers

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permitted in the facility at one time. Facilities and furniture have been rearranged and signage installed to encourage social distancing whenever possible. Only 1 relative is permitted to accompany patients, and except for minor patients, the relative waits outside the facility. Shorter cases, and those that do not require general anesthesia are prioritized to limit possible exposure.

Volunteers will not have contact with NPH children or staff. Only family members will be permitted to room together in the visitor center. Volunteers who exhibit any symptoms will be quarantined. Vehicles and shared surfaces will undergo more frequent and enhanced cleaning. Cooks and servers will wear masks and gloves when preparing and serving food, and disposable dishes, cups, and utensils will be used.

What is the current status of COVID-19 in Honduras? Are cases surging?

According to our Honduran colleagues, the public health system has recently experienced an increase in hospitalizations, especially after the November hurricanes. They indicate that the private system has not seen as much of an increase. Current government numbers do not point to a surge in cases like the U.S. is currently experiencing.

Will I have to share a bedroom?

During the initial medical mission reopening phase, only household members will share bedrooms. The number of volunteers on each trip will be limited to allow volunteers to have their own bedrooms.

Who is permitted to attend medical mission at this time?

During the initial medical mission reopening phase, only clinical volunteers are permitted. Volunteers over age 65 and those with certain medical conditions may require medical approval to attend.

What happens if Honduras closes its borders again?

While we have no indication that Honduras will close its borders again due to COVID-19, if this were to happen, volunteers would remain in country at One World Surgery accommodations until airlines could coordinate evacuation flights with the Dominican government. OWS vigilantly monitors the local situation and would strive to coordinate volunteer departure prior to any anticipated border closures.

What is air travel like during the pandemic?

Travelers are required to wear masks inside the airport and on planes, except while eating and drinking. Drink and meal service on planes is limited. Planes are being cleaned more thoroughly and frequently.

Will I have to wait at the airport in Honduras for all volunteers to arrive?

Depending on volunteer flight times and availability of transportation, One World Surgery may be able to coordinate additional pick-up times. One World Surgery will provide volunteers without an outdoor meeting point at the airport so that volunteers are not waiting or congregating inside the airport.

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