

Navigating International Travel in the Covid-Era

Updated 12/4/2020

At Adventures in Missions, we are committed to navigating this global pandemic in a wise manner. **We acknowledge that there is risk;** it is just not possible to avoid it completely. However, we assure you that operating in wisdom is a top priority for us and our risk management and route planning teams. Here are our general protocols for those who are launching overseas in January, 2021.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Participants' international insurance plan will now include COVID coverage. While our initial insurance options did not include COVID-related coverage, we have worked with our provider to incorporate this into the policy. You can find policy details [here](#).

ON-FIELD COVID PLAN

Q: Will medical care be available? Yes. The availability of medical care is always a consideration when we send teams overseas. In light of COVID, we are assessing not only the quality of medical care available but also the capacity of a country's medical care system. As part of a team's orientation for a location, they will be told where to go for medical care. Due to the unpredictability of COVID-19, we cannot guarantee what specifically will be available should there be a widespread outbreak in the areas where our teams are located. If the need arises, we will work with our ministry hosts to assess options.

Q: Can participants be tested for COVID overseas? Yes. Testing is available in each country we are sending participants to. We will do our best to make sure participants can get tested if the symptoms warrant it. We are still working with our ministry partners on the logistical details that would be involved in getting participants tested.

Q: Will sick participants be isolated/quarantined? To the best of our ability we will follow our current policies for isolation and quarantine as outlined in the On-Campus Racer Health and Safety Protocols. This will apply both to the sick participant and to their teammates. We may face some limitations based on the actual accommodations in a particular area and will adapt as best we can. In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of participants utilizing daily health assessments. We will be updating participants as we work toward a decision.

Q: Who will take care of a sick participant? If help or care are needed during isolation or quarantine, it will be coordinated by their team or squad leadership, with help from the ministry host as available.

Q: Should a Racer or other participant get COVID on the field, can a parent travel to the country to take care of them? Unless there is an extreme illness or surgery that will require extensive recovery, we generally discourage parents from making plans to come. However, requests for this will be considered on a case by case basis. Keep in mind that exposure to COVID will create significant travel restrictions.

Q: Should someone get COVID on the field, will they have trouble getting back into the U.S. at the end of their trip? While entry requirements could change, we currently do not anticipate a problem once they are symptom free, have isolated/quarantined for a certain period of time and have not been re-exposed to COVID.

Q: What if borders close, due to COVID, while participants are overseas? Our internal risk management team and our external consultants will continue to monitor the COVID implications for international travel. If quick action does become necessary, we have experience navigating that situation. In March 2020, borders began to close without much notice, and we safely brought home 570 participants from 26 international squads over the course of 6 days. While we cannot completely predict what a future situation would look like, we do have an experienced team that is ready to work around the clock to get our participants home.

Q: What will COVID requirements and expectations be while we are overseas? We are committed to complying with any government regulations that exist. This could include entry requirements, curfews, in-country travel restrictions or more. We are also committed to having field policies in line with best practices. We will continue to work closely with our ministry partners to monitor the advice of international health organizations and local regulations.

Q: Will we have more information about routes and COVID requirements before we launch? The truth is that there are still a lot of unknowns about some of the specifics. Our risk management team is encountering a higher level than usual of conflicting information and changing regulations. Our goal is to communicate well and in as timely a manner as possible. However, we may not have all the information we normally do before participants launch. Each launch window and trip will receive communication specific to their situation. For January 2021, see more details below.

PRE-FIELD COVID PREPARATION

For participants launching overseas in January, 2021

Q: Do I need a COVID test to show up to launch? Yes. Due to recent trends and to stay compliant with updated regulations, we are now requiring participants and field leaders coming to Launch to get a COVID test ***within 7 days of arrival***. **Negative test documentation will be required to register.** Participants have received further detail about this from our staff.

Additionally, all countries we are traveling to require documentation of a negative COVID test within a few days pre-arrival in-country. Due to these various country-specific regulations, Adventures will facilitate testing for all participants within each country's required time-frame, at no additional cost to the participant. This will be facilitated during your time in Georgia.

Q: How else do I need to prepare? It is important that participants stay as healthy and safe as possible in the weeks leading up to travel. Individuals who test positive for COVID will not be permitted to travel with their team. Participants have received further detail about pre-arrival requirements, such as symptom tracking documentation, from our staff.

All participants are required to bring multiple washable masks for their trip, and masks will be expected to be worn throughout registration. We also recommend travel-sized hand sanitizer.

Q: What immunizations do I need? Our normal procedure is to refer you to the travel information provided by the [Centers for Disease Control](#). We recommend looking at that site and talking to your primary care physician or to a travel clinic for their recommendations related to your first country and to vaccines that would generally be recommended for most international travel. **Please update the medical section of your profile with the vaccines you have gotten/will get by 12/16.*

We recognize that not knowing your full route will make it difficult to assess regionally recommended vaccines. Our route planning team is aware of this and is taking it into account. We will make sure that Racers have the opportunity to get regionally specific vaccines before being sent to a country where it is important to have them.

We do ask you to get the Yellow Fever vaccine since some countries may require it for entry and some will require it based on your travel to earlier countries on your route (even if they don't require it when coming directly from the U.S.). Because there is a shortage of the vaccine, it may be harder to find a local clinic with availability so we suggest starting the process quickly.

Q: Will my international insurance through Adventures include COVID coverage? Yes! *And this is a change from what was originally announced.* Adventures in Missions has been able to negotiate this addition to our original plan. This is at no additional cost to the racer. More specific information can be found [here](#) or in your profile. *If you've personally worked with MissionSafe to purchase individual COVID coverage, you can contact them to cancel.*

Q: What if I get COVID right before I'm supposed to come to Gainesville? You will want to notify your Admissions Advisor immediately. We will work with you on a case by case basis. We will do what we can to get you to your squad as soon as it is possible and wise. If you begin developing symptoms (or plan to get tested), please notify your Admissions Advisor ASAP.

Q: When will we leave Georgia for our first country? This depends on your specific trip. Your Admissions Advisor or program leader will communicate this information to you directly. Most participants can plan on being in Georgia 2-5 days.

Q: When will I know the rest of my route / what to expect for upcoming months? Our risk management and route planning teams are constantly monitoring world news related to border openings and closings, entry requirements and more. We will not be able to make route announcements until we can put plans in place that have a high level of certainty. We recognize this makes it difficult to plan, and we are all having to learn new levels of flexibility.