

# **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Updated 10/2/2023

## Overview

This document describes the required Wildlands Studies LLC COVID-19 protocols and practices, including acceptance requirements, program preparation, on-site health care, and actions we intend to take if a participant or instructor presents with symptoms, tests positive or becomes ill with COVID-19 while on the program. This document addresses both USA and international program locations.

Participants, individually and as a team, must take responsibility for their own health, arrive to their program location fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with a booster if eligible, and follow Center for Disease Control (CDC), state and country-specific guidelines for staying healthy.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement**

Wildlands Studies requires participants and instructional field staff to arrive fully vaccinated for COVID-19, using the Centers for Disease Control definition.

IMPORTANT: Wildlands Studies will not make exceptions to our COVID-19 vaccine requirement. If, in spite of efforts, vaccination cannot be accomplished, participant will be required to withdraw from the program. Wildlands Studies will follow the Wildlands Studies Refund Policy if an enrolled participant is not vaccinated and withdraws in advance of the program start date.

# **Prior to Arriving at the Program**

Each participant's personal health and well-being is crucial to the success of the program and the health and well-being of its other participants. Each participant must, to the best of their knowledge, be fit and healthy, free of infection from COVID-19 or other communicable disease and able to travel to the program location, and able to participate fully.

## **Important Considerations**

Do not travel to your Wildlands Studies program if you have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting), or if you know or suspect that you have had or been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 10 days.

#### **COVID-19 Symptoms or Illness on a Program**

Wildlands Studies requires that instructors and participants follow Wildlands Studies protocols if a participant or program staff member has symptoms, tests positive or becomes ill with COVID-19 while on a program. If a participant develops symptoms and using an over-the-counter viral test receives a positive test result for COVID-19, they will be isolated from the team until they test negative, or as indicated by Wildlands Studies protocol and/or CDC guidelines.

As with any illness, program leaders will seek professional medical advice, utilize Wildlands Studies protocols, integrate CDC COVID-19 illness guidelines, and review COVID-19 response standards established by the country or location in which we travel. For participants testing positive for COVID-19 while on the program, this will likely include isolating from the team or removal from the program to a hotel, at their own expense, where they will need to reside until they test negative or no longer show symptoms, after which, with instructor consent, they may return to the program.

Wildlands Studies does not have the resources to accommodate extended illness in participants, although we will assist in finding lodging or arranging travel. It is also highly likely that a participant who tests positive for COVID-19 and remains ill for an extended period of time will not be able to rejoin the program, in light of the academic requirements, remote nature and logistical challenges of our program. This will depend on the ability of the participant to perform the required coursework while recovering, and the program logistics for re-instating the participant once they have recovered from the illness.