

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID PROCEDURES FOR HANDS OF PEACE SUMMER PROGRAM 2022**

### **IS THERE A VACCINE AND BOOSTER MANDATE?**

Yes, all Hands of Peace Summer Program participants and staff must be fully up-to-date with their COVID vaccinations, including booster(s) when eligible. Participants and their parents attend the Summer Program with the expectation that participants and staff will be safe and healthy throughout their experience. This can happen only if we are confident that individual safety and public health remain at the center of every decision made throughout the program. Reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses from entering any of our on-site or off-site programs is the single most effective strategy to protect public health. This goal can be accomplished only through the appropriate vaccination of all members of our Summer Program.

### **HOW DOES HOP MAKE DECISIONS RELATED TO HEALTH AND SAFETY AND COVID?**

A team of experienced HOP staff and administrators is overseeing the development of COVID protocols guided by a team of licensed medical professionals. Their recommendations are prescribed by the policies of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

### **ARE THERE PRE-PROGRAM COVID PREVENTION GUIDELINES?**

Yes. Our pre-program strategies were developed to be effective against acquiring a COVID infection and are based on current conditions to minimize COVID exposures in the weeks prior to coming to the Summer Program. Our pre-program protocols include guidance on when and where to wear masks, avoid large gatherings, etc. (For additional details, see the document COVID PROCEDURES FOR ON SITE PARTICIPANTS, STAFF AND HOST FAMILIES")

### **WILL MASKS BE REQUIRED?**

Yes. In addition to the pre-program protocols, Hands of Peace will require that participants and staff wear masks indoors for the first 3 days of the program. If no COVID cases are detected after 3 days following arrival, we may relax this requirement as circumstances permit. If one or more cases are detected, we will once again require masks indoors for the period of time recommended by our medical team. Participants and staff should arrive to the Summer Program with at least 3 high filtration masks (N95/KN95/KN94 level or equivalent). Hands of Peace will supply masks as needed once the

program starts. Masks will also be available at any time to any participant or staff member who requests one.

**WILL THERE BE ONGOING SURVEILLANCE TESTING DURING THE SUMMER PROGRAM?**

Yes. We will test every participant and staff member on arrival using Rapid Antigen tests. A second test will be administered on Day 3. A third test will be administered on Day 6. If a participant or staff member is found to be COVID+, that person will be isolated for a period of time, as described below. Additionally, we will test any participant or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID infection. Our testing regimens will be responsive to changing COVID conditions and will comply with recommendations from our medical team.

**WHAT IS THE PLAN IF COVID SYMPTOMS AND POSITIVE TESTS ARE ENCOUNTERED?**

To protect the Hands of Peace community and others from further spread, participants and staff who show symptoms or test positive will be isolated in their host's home for a minimum of 5 days. Hands of Peace will support the affected family and participant in healing and care as much as possible. COVID+ individuals will begin daily testing after 3 days of isolation and can return to normal activities after 2 consecutive days tests produce negative Rapid Antigen test results.

**WHY DO WE HAVE TO ISOLATE CONFIRMED COVID CASES IF EVERYONE IS UP TO DATE WITH COVID VACCINATIONS, AS REQUIRED?**

It is now commonly known that even vaccinated individuals can acquire the COVID infection.

**WHAT IS THE PLAN IF COVID CONDITIONS CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE SUMMER PROGRAM?**

If the COVID conditions outside of our two host cities change during the Summer Program (for example, a new COVID variant or surge takes place while the program is in session), we will consult our medical team and determine appropriate steps. These changes in mitigation levels will be determined by our medical team and might include requiring masks, reducing the number of off-site activities, and returning to daily rapid antigen testing.

**SOME OF THE STAFF WILL BE TRAVELING BETWEEN CHICAGO AND SAN DIEGO DURING THE PROGRAM. WILL THEY BE FOLLOWING THE SAME SET OF PROTOCOLS?**

Yes. Staff will be tested on arrival at each site and will follow all the requirements and procedures listed here and in other Hands of Peace COVID-related documents, including requirements for isolation and further testing as described above.

**WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID PROTOCOLS?**

Please contact your Regional Manager or Site Director.