

CLOSE UP FOUNDATION COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Created in consultation with MedStar Georgetown Pediatrics

Program Modifications due to COVID-19

Close Up reserves the right to make a number of programmatic changes, adjustments and modifications as a result of the changing dynamics – including, but not limited to, changing CDC guidance and local/state restrictions - in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These changes include, but are not limited to:

- Capping a program's size;
- Reducing the size of small group workshops and student-to-instructor ratios;
- Rescheduling or replacing components that are unable to run due to time, group size, or COVID-19 protocol constraints;
- Limiting or eliminating mixing of students from different states/communities;
- Providing space for greater physical distancing during program components and on coach busses;
- Assigning seats on busses;
- Adjusting sleep room occupancy; and,
- Modifying, changing, or eliminating Teacher Program components.

Close Up reserves the right to make a number of programmatic changes, adjustments and modifications as a result of the changing dynamics in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including responding to revised CDC guidance and local restrictions.

Pre-Program Mitigation Recommendations

Close Up **strongly recommends** that any participant on a Close Up program either a) be fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to the program start date, and b) receive a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of travel and limit social activity outside of the household in the week leading up to the trip. These measures will help contribute to a safer environment and can reduce the likelihood of exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or unknowingly exposing others to the virus while on a Close Up program. Please consult your personal physician about options for COVID-19 vaccination and/or testing.

Participants should also review airline policies and requirements for travel. Additionally, we ask that each participant conduct a pre-trip health assessment. Should the participant answer “yes” to any question in the list below, they should contact Close Up before beginning travel:

- In the last 10 days, have you experienced any of the following symptoms?:
 - Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
 - Sore throat;
 - Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in your cough from usual);
 - Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from your baseline breathing);
 - Diarrhea or vomiting;
 - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever; or,
 - New loss of taste or smell.
- In the last 10 days, have you come into contact or near anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- In the last 10 days have you been in contact with anyone currently awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test?
- Have you travelled outside of the country within the past 10 days?

On-Going COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols

As of July 1, 2021, Close Up has implemented the following on-going COVID-19 mitigation protocols on in-person programs:

- Requiring all participants and staff to wear masks while on any Close Up bus and during all indoor program components, except for when eating and when in one's sleep room. Masks are recommended, but optional, during outdoor activities and components. This policy is in place regardless of vaccination status;
- Prohibiting participants and staff from eating while on busses or during indoor program components;
- Encouraging hand-washing/sanitizing, and making time for more frequent hand-washing;
- Providing PPE as requested, including re-usable masks, disposable masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves;
- Informing participants of and encouraging participants to follow best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 spread;
- Asking participants to review a self-reported health screen before departing their rooms each morning. Additionally, participants are required to alert Close Up staff if they present symptoms or become aware of information that would change their answer to the following questions:
 - Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?:
 - » Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
 - » Sore throat;
 - » Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in your cough from usual);
 - » Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from your baseline breathing);
 - » New loss of taste or smell;
 - » Diarrhea or vomiting; or,
 - » New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
 - In the last 10 days, have you come into contact or near anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
 - In the last 10 days have you been in contact with anyone currently awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test?

If the participant answers "yes" to any of these questions, COVID-19 sick protocol (see below) begins. Close Up reserves the right to remove a participant from program and seek medical consultation if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (even if they have not reported those symptoms to Close Up staff) or if Close Up staff is notified of recent possible exposure.

COVID-19 Protocol for Sick Participants

If a participant is suspected of having COVID-19 (either through self-reporting or exhibiting symptoms):

- The participant will be quarantined immediately in a separate hotel room from their roommates. (see protocol for close contacts below)
- Close Up will contact the Trip Coordinator and facilitate communication with the parent or guardian of the participant, if applicable.
- Close Up staff will contact MedStar Georgetown Pediatrics for medical advice and arrange for both a rapid COVID-19 test and a PCR COVID-19 test as needed.
- Close Up staff will escort participant to a COVID-19 testing location via taxi or hired car.
- If the participant's rapid test is positive for COVID-19, they will be required to enter quarantine, and close contacts will be informed of exposure (see protocol for close contacts below). **Current CDC guidelines recommend that someone testing positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days following a positive test or the onset of symptoms and wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for an additional 5 days.**
- If the participant's rapid test is negative, they will remain in quarantine while awaiting PCR test results.
 - If PCR test is negative, the participant can return to program or be treated for non-COVID-19 illness.
 - **If PCR test is positive, the participant will be required to enter quarantine, and close contacts will be**

informed of exposure (see protocol for close contacts below). Current CDC guidelines recommend that someone testing positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days following a positive test or the onset of symptoms and wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for an additional 5 days.

Protocol for COVID-19 “Close Contacts”

- A “close contact”, as defined by the CDC is as follows: Someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed, with or without a mask) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes in one day). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from two days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before the positive specimen collection date).
- Close Up Foundation, in conjunction with its medical partners and local health officials, will make a determination of who is considered a close contact and will require quarantine.
- If a participant is notified while they are on Close Up that they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 prior to the start of program, they would be required to enter quarantine. Current CDC guidelines recommend that someone who is a close contact of someone testing positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 10 days following exposure.
- Close contacts of someone on program suspected of having COVID-19 will remain on program until exposure to COVID-19 is confirmed with a positive test of the suspected participant. **If COVID-19 exposure is confirmed, the close contact would be required to enter quarantine. Current CDC guidelines recommend that someone who is a close contact of someone testing positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for at least 5 days following exposure, get tested at least 5 days after exposure, and wear a well-fitted mask for 5 additional days any time they are around others.**

COVID-19 Quarantine Procedures and Costs

Based on the protocols above, Close Up will facilitate communication between our medical partners and local health authorities (MedStar Georgetown Pediatrics, the DC Department of Health, and/or the Virginia Department of Health) and the participants (or the parent/guardian of participants) who are required to enter quarantine for a positive COVID-19 test, or for exposure to COVID-19 as a close contact. Close Up will arrange and pay for the airfare costs of a parent, guardian, or other adult (with parent permission) to join the participant at the Close Up hotel for the duration of the quarantined-participant’s stay. Close Up will provide – at no additional cost- a Close Up hall monitor and meals for quarantined participants while awaiting the arrival of the parent, guardian, or other adult. **All additional costs, including but not limited to airline ticket changes, additional room/board for the participant, room/board for the parent/guardian/other adult, meals, parking, taxis, transportation, taxes, tips/gratuities are the responsibility of the participant, or their parent/guardian (for student participants).** While Close Up staff is available for logistical assistance and guidance, the participant is deemed to be no longer on a Close Up program upon the arrival of the parent/guardian at the hotel. For adult participants, the individual is deemed to be no longer on a Close Up program upon a) the arrival of a personal friend/family member to assist with quarantine; or, b) 5:00PM on the originally scheduled day of departure from the Close Up program.

Exceptions to Close Up’s COVID-19 Sick/Exposed Participant Protocol

Close Up reserves the right to include all participants, regardless of vaccination status, in the Close Up COVID-19 Sick/Exposed Participant Protocols dependent upon local, state, and federal guidance at the time. However, the following people may not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 prior to or during a Close Up trip:

- Participants aged 18 & over, and who have been fully vaccinated and boosted.
- Participants aged 18 & over, and who have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months.
- Participants aged 18 & over, and who have completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months.
- Participants aged 5-17 years, and who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Participant who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test).

Participants who fall into these categories should carry a copy of their vaccine card and/or a doctor's note confirming a positive COVID-19 test within 90 days of their program with them during travel. Close Up will only require this documentation if there is suspected COVID-19 exposure on program. Close contacts who fall into these categories will be required to wear a well-fitting mask at ALL TIMES for 10 days and will need to be tested 5 days after exposure.

Post-Program COVID-19 Mitigation

Close Up strongly recommends that all Close Up participants review and follow local and state guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation after returning home from their Close Up program. Close Up also recommends reviewing the post-travel guidance from the CDC, especially for participants who are not fully-vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>.

Close Up and Its Medical Partners

Close Up utilizes MedStar Georgetown University Hospital for consultation and guidance. While on a Close Up program, final decisions on participant quarantines will rest with Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, the DC Department of Health, and/or the Virginia Department of Health upon consultation with the participant, or the parent/guardian of the participant, where applicable.