

Guidelines for CBF Disaster Response Volunteers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Based on FLVOAD Guidelines for Volunteers and Volunteer Organizations During COVID-19 Outbreak in Florida

COVID-19 considerations for CBF Disaster Response volunteer candidates:

- Do not attempt to volunteer for any disaster response activity if:
 - You have been around anyone who has COVID-19 over the 14 days prior to service
 - You have been among any large groups of people (e.g., crowded public venues) over the 14 days prior to service
 - If you are not presently feeling well or are in poor health
 - If you are under the age of 18
 - If you are over the age of 70



General guidelines to follow while volunteering on recovery sites

- Do practice universal infection control precautions. Clean and wash your hands before, during, and after engagement in response efforts.
- Do clean/disinfect any used spaces thoroughly before and after, including tabletop surfaces, doorknobs, and handles
- Do use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), although cloth face masks may need to be substituted for N95 masks
- Do maintain 6-10 feet of separation from others while conducting tasks or encountering/engaging with others
- Ask about risk that may be associated with any task. DO NOT take part if you are uncomfortable with the level of risk.

General guidance for managing CBF Disaster Response volunteer teams

- Focusing on delivering services in a COVID-19 environment, ensure that everyone is working together and taking all necessary precautions to serve those affected by disaster
- Keep in mind that volunteers over the age of 65 are at a higher risk of contracting the virus
- Incorporate social distancing measures for volunteer teams that would include limiting building/transportation capacities, minimizing team size to less than six and limiting non-essential travel
- Monitor teams to maintain 6-10 feet of social distance during tasks
- Minimizing sharing of tools and equipment, incorporating frequent cleaning with disinfectant wipes and/or sprays
- Acquire cleaning supplies, masks/face coverings and gloves, and implement personal protective policies or measures (handwashing, hand sanitizer, etc.) to limit the spread of the virus to protect volunteers, disaster-impacted communities, response partners and others
- Conduct daily health screenings (e.g., temperature checks, symptom checklist) to monitor volunteer wellness and prevent further infections.
- Prepare isolation space in case anyone displays symptoms. Be ready to help persons showing symptoms to receive medical attention and/or return home.

- Make sure that all volunteers understand risks associated with proposed tasks and be understanding should anyone not be comfortable with any level of risk
- Do not compete in the market for scarce supplies that healthcare organizations and providers need every day to perform their duties

Travel and lodging considerations for volunteers

- Be prepared not to stay in evacuation shelters as displaced people may be depending on such locations while also trying to social distance
- Ideally, volunteer teams should be recruited by CBF state/regional organizations from communities within a 30-minute to 1.5-hour drive from affected areas so that the volunteers will not need to lodge in locations where social distancing might not be possible.
- Teams might also consider staying in hotels, host churches or suitable partner agency facilities that can offer a reasonable amount of social distancing and are within a 30-minute to 1.5-hour drive from the affected area.
- Sleeping in individual tents or campers might be another option for social distancing
- No volunteer team will be accepted that requires air travel.

Florida Volunteer Organizations Active in Development. 2020. FLVOAD Guidelines for Volunteers and Volunteer Organization During COVID-19 Outbreak in Florida. <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FLVOAD-Guidelines-COVID-19.pdf>