



“You were called to serve. Today, the most important thing you can do is to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. We ask that you familiarize yourself with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how you can protect yourself and others.” – Chester Spellman, AmeriCorps National Director.

We recognize this pandemic has disrupted many lives and plans. However, as a nonprofit organization with a long-term history of service in the Northwest, our number one priority is the safety of our volunteers and those communities with whom we serve, which includes populations more at risk of serious illness and even death due to exposure of the coronavirus, such as elders and those with autoimmune and lung disorders, as well unknown health complications.

Please use this risk assessment *collaboratively and daily* with your intentional communities as COVID-19 rapidly changes our world. Assess the hazards associated with each of your choices and actions and implement the necessary controls as appropriate. Please recognize some community mates may have health risks they may not want to share, but that could be affected because of COVID-19. Avoid assumptions and think of the common good. JVC Northwest requested all JV/AmeriCorps members to stay home from service sites to exercise the recommended extreme caution before we had this risk assessment in place. Now that it is in place, JVC Northwest is not supportive of service or activity greater than low risk.

JVC Northwest COVID-19 Risk Assessment Rubric, adapted from the Centers for Disease Control:

Risk Level	Management if Asymptomatic	Management if Symptomatic
<p>High Risk</p> <p>Someone entered a service site with COVID-19 or a member has known close contact/exposure to someone with known COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Known COVID-19 outbreak within the locale and state and/or local governments have issued “shelter-in-place” orders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine (voluntary or under public health orders) in a location to be determined by public health authorities. • No public activities. • Daily active monitoring, if possible based on local priorities • Controlled travel <p><i>Asses your locale – what is the proximity and rate of new cases?</i></p> <p><i>What is the threshold for risk for those with compromised immune systems?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate isolation with consideration of public health orders. • Public health assessment to determine the need for medical evaluation; if medical evaluation warranted, diagnostic testing should be guided by CDC’s PUI definition • If medical evaluation is needed, it should occur with pre-notification to the receiving HCF and EMS, if EMS transport indicated, and with all recommended infection control precautions in place. • Controlled travel: Air travel only via air medical transport. Local travel is only allowed by medical transport (e.g., ambulance) or private vehicle while symptomatic person is wearing a face mask.

<p>Moderate Risk</p> <p>Close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms such as dry cough and fever.</p> <p>On an aircraft, being seated within 6 feet of a traveler with symptoms of COVID-19 (this distance correlates approximately with 2 seats in each direction)</p> <p>Living in the same household someone with symptoms of COVID-19 infection even while consistently using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to remain at home or in a comparable setting • Practice social distancing • Active monitoring as determined by local priorities • Recommendation to postpone long-distance travel on commercial conveyances <p><i>How are you able to practice social distancing (6 feet each way) at a service site or in public? How many people will be attending or in the space at one time?</i></p> <p><i>What preventative measures does your service site have in place? Is there personal preventative equipment (PPE) available to you?</i></p> <p><i>Are you able to track new cases as they arise? How much contact do you have with vulnerable populations?</i></p> <p><i>Is there appropriate and available training at your service site?</i></p> <p><i>Does your service site limit the germs that can enter the site with thorough cleaning, PPE, and posted COVID-19 information?</i></p> <p><i>Does the process align with local (city, county) and state guidelines? Does it align with Department of Health and CDC guidance?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolation • Public health assessment to determine the need for medical evaluation; if medical evaluation warranted, diagnostic testing should be guided by CDC's PUI definition. • If medical evaluation is needed, it should ideally occur with pre-notification to the receiving HCF and EMS, if EMS transport indicated, and with all recommended infection control precautions in place. • Controlled travel: Air travel only via air medical transport. Local travel is only allowed by medical transport (e.g., ambulance) or private vehicle while symptomatic person is wearing a face mask.
<p>Low Risk</p> <p>Being in the same indoor environment (e.g., a classroom, a hospital waiting room) as a person with symptoms of COVID-19 but</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restriction on movement • Self-observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolation, social distancing • Person should seek health advice to determine if medical evaluation is needed.

not meeting the definition of close contact.	<i>See questions above for the Moderate Risk category and see if you feel comfortable with the answers.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If sought, medical evaluation and care should be guided by clinical presentation; diagnostic testing for COVID-19 should be guided by CDC's PUI definition. • Travel on commercial conveyances should be postponed until no longer symptomatic.
<p>No identifiable risk</p> <p>Interactions with a person with symptoms of COVID-19 that do not meet any of the high-, medium- or low-risk conditions above, such as walking by the person or being briefly in the same room.</p>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-isolation, social distancing • Person should seek health advice to determine if medical evaluation is needed. • If sought, medical evaluation and care should be guided by clinical presentation; diagnostic testing for COVID-19 should be guided by CDC's PUI definition. • Travel on commercial conveyances should be postponed until no longer symptomatic.

Remember

- Only JV/AmeriCorps members that are not at-risk or do not have an underlying health condition that may make them more susceptible to COVID-19 may continue service. Service is an individual voluntary decision because this information is confidential.
- JV/AmeriCorps members have other options, including remote service, alternative service, and suspension (leave to allow time to make up hours later), or exiting service.
- Communities will need young, healthy individuals to respond and support the nonprofit and community infrastructure during this time, as they are the ones least likely to be impacted adversely by COVID-19. However, your help is not useful if you're unwittingly spreading disease within your locale and community.
- Use increased level of PPE (personal protective equipment) when engaging in activities that have potential to be higher than low to moderate risk. Again, JVC Northwest is not supportive of any service or activity greater than low risk.
- This is not formal guidance from AmeriCorps or legal guidance. You are welcome to consult a legal team.

Examples of alternative service options (PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES are STILL PROHIBITED):

- Delivery of food to someone by setting food on doorstep and that person not opening door to pick up the food until delivery person has left.
- Modify attendee control in food distribution so there is no hand-to-hand hand-off goods, but placement of goods on a table, line and room or area entry control, and standardized cleaning timing.

- Other community feeding support, such as meal and food prep, planning/coordination, packing, distribution/delivery, warehousing/inventory, safety inspection, and related activities.
- Remote call center support—dial-in remote call centers are ideal; for example, provide support to 2-1-1 or other community call centers.
- Modify in-person coaching around accessing higher education or other types of case management to Zoom or other web/phone based coaching.
- Wellness checks on volunteers or other populations using a phone tree, or similar methodology.
- Conduct wellness checks on the elderly and vulnerable populations via phone calls, text messaging, or talking through the door.
- Infrastructure support, such as maintaining school gardens, sanitizing play grounds, or other projects where there is access to now “empty” areas, and service can follow social distancing practices.
- Use online resources to engage with fellow JV/AmeriCorps members in Civic Reflection activities or weekly team meetings. Participate in or lead virtual civic reflections or other discussions related to how to serve the community during COVID-19.
- Coordinate with schools to help with delivery of educational content using online resources (for example, reading books that can be shared with students, conducting science experiments, virtual tours, virtual lessons). Material may be recorded or presented “live”.
- Assist local health departments/offices with coordinating public health initiatives and health/safety education efforts.
- Assist with coordinating in-kind donations related to COVID-19 community needs (food donations, supply drives, blood drives, etc.).
- Assemble hygiene and disaster preparedness kits for high-need populations such as the homeless, those living in shelters, and other low-income communities.
- Assist with childcare or other support for first responders.
- Assist with data entry/analysis for response efforts.
- Provide support to neighborhood initiatives such as stocking free community libraries, micro food pantries, etc.

Finally, some ideas for a Community Night Discussion:

- Write about how you would feel if you found out that you are asymptomatic but a carrier of the virus, and because of not assessing your risk, you unwittingly may have spread the virus to someone in your community?
- Who do you love who you are concerned about who is at a higher-risk of contagion and serious effect from the virus?
- What positive and negative spirits (or inner voices, thoughts, or inclinations) can you discern are active within you during this time of unprecedented global pandemic? What are your fears? What is your higher self called to do?