



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;
- Requiring masks;
- 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.

Pre-Program Mitigation Recommendations

Close Up **strongly recommends** that any participant on a Close Up program a) be fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to the program start date, and b) receive a negative COVID-19 rapid test within 24 hours of travel. 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?

On-Going COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols

As of August 8, 2022, Close Up has implemented the following on-going COVID-19 mitigation protocols on in-person programs:

- Strongly encouraging all participants and staff to wear masks throughout the program experience, especially when in enclosed spaces such as a bus or indoors. Masks will be required during all components in locations where masks are required;
- 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 COVID-19 exposure 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.
- If the participant’s rapid test is positive for COVID-19 (regardless of who administered the test), they will be required to enter quarantine, and others exposed will be informed of such (see protocol for COVID-19 exposure 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. CDC guidelines state that one should not travel for a full 10 days after the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test if you had no symptoms.**
- 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 others exposed will be informed of such (see protocol for COVID-19 exposure 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. CDC**

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Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure

- Close Up Foundation, in conjunction with its medical partners and local health officials, will make a determination of who is considered exposed to COVID-19 and will be required to take precautions.
- If a participant is notified while they are on Close Up that they were exposed to COVID-19 prior to the start of program, they will be required to take precautions. Current CDC guidelines state that someone exposed to COVID-19 must wear a well-fitting mask at all times for 10 days following exposure and get tested 6 days following exposure.
- Participants exposed to COVID-19 while on program will be required to take precautions. Current CDC guidelines state that someone exposed to COVID-19 must wear a well-fitting mask at all times for 10 days following exposure and get tested 6 days following exposure.

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. Close Up will arrange and pay for the airfare costs of a parent, guardian, or other adult (with parent permission) to take responsibility for the participant from Close Up. 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.

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.