

## Covid-19 Safety & Health Protocol

(last edited – Feb. 2021)

The safety and well-being of our travelers is Vamonos' top priority. We want to be responsible travelers and hosts in the locations we visit for the protection of everyone. Below is an update on our destination:

- **Puerto Rico and our US cities** - these domestic destinations are now open for responsible group travel. Our recommended group size is between 10-25 travelers for a max of 5-6 days in any given destination.
- **Costa Rica, Panama and Martinique** - These foreign destinations that have earned a Safe Travels stamp from the World Travel & Tourism Council for their high health and safety standards for safe travel. We are re-initiating our tours to these destinations beginning on March 29, 2021. Our recommended group size is between 8-20 travelers for a max of 5-7 days in any given destination.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, we implemented additional safety measures to protect our staff and travelers as per CDC, FDA, and local Health Department Regulations. Our preventative measures are geared toward minimizing the exposure of our travelers and staff from any spread of Covid-19. Our Vamonos staff must be properly trained in our Covid-19 hygiene and safety practices before working for any of our groups.

Before tour departure, our Covid-19 Safety & Health Policy will be shared with our travelers. We will also encourage the group leader to review our policy with the group and acknowledge the guidelines. In addition, we will be monitoring the group's flight(s), government-mandated guidelines, viral spread, security in the specific destination, weather, and any other event that may directly or indirectly affect the group's safety.

## **DELIVERING A SAFE AND FUN EXPERIENCE**

We will deliver a safe experience for our guests and staff through enhanced cleanliness and hygiene best practices. A prevention plan including an action/checklist for infection prevention and a special cleaning and disinfection plan has been established.

### **Before Departure**

All travelers must:

- Obtain a negative molecular Covid-19 test within 72 hours of departure. Find out well in advance where to obtain an FDA-approved local test appointment capable of providing results within 24-48 hours.
- Obtain state, school, primary-care physician, and parental permission to travel.
- Check current state and country regulations for re-entry.
- Fill out and sign all required documents and waivers prior to tour.
- Self-health check is required before heading to the departing city airport, and temperature screening will be mandatory at arrival as is the required use of a face mask as required by local authorities.
- If possible, get vaccinated against Covid19. Wait 2 weeks after getting your second dose in order to travel (it takes time for the body to build immunity after any vaccination)

We also suggest group leaders to submit their seating and room charts at least 3 weeks prior to departure. Some physicians suggest travelers obtain a flu shot ideally 14 days prior to travel.

As per CCD guidelines, [DO NOT TRAVEL](#) if:

- You have fever, cough or other Covid19-related symptoms.
- You recently tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR or antigen test.
- You are waiting for COVID-19 PCR or antigen test results.
- You have had [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

All waivers for outdoor activities such as ziplining and catamaran excursions will be distributed, signed, and collected in a touchless digital manner. Each tour will be assigned a tour assistant with a separate vehicle following the group in case of any assistance or emergency.

## Daily Routine

The following routine will be followed each morning of the tour:

**Masks** - All travelers must bring face masks for the duration of their tour. They must wear, along with Vamonos' staff, a cloth or disposable mask (no scarves, bandanas, gaiters or vented masks) while in public, in transition, and indoors. Examples of when masks will be required include, but are not limited to: buses, hotel lobbies and meeting spaces, indoor and outdoor (in Puerto Rico only) activities, in restaurants when not eating, and when social distancing isn't possible.

**Temperature Checks** -Temperature and health checks for all travelers will be conducted and monitored before the start of each day. Thermometers and copies of our daily self-check questionnaire will be provided by Vámonos. Please be aware that local vendors might also require temperature checks.

Any traveler not passing the health check or having a temperature of 100.3 or higher will be immediately quarantined from the group. We will follow the procedure for travelers that become sick listed below.

**Staff** - Tour staff will complete a wellness check and take their temperature before the start of each day. Any staff member that has a temperature higher than 100.3, shows any symptoms of illness, has been diagnosed with Covid-19, has had close contact with someone with the virus in the last 14 days, or has been asked to quarantine, will be sent home for the remainder of the tour and a replacement will be provided.

**Buses** - Travelers will board buses starting with the seats in the back of the bus and moving forward. Travelers will disembark from the bus from front to back. This eliminates travelers from having to walk past each other when getting on and off the bus. Travelers must adhere to allocated seating plans with no rotation. Seat spacing set by local requirements will be followed.

**Gloves** - Staff members will be required to use single use gloves while handling food.

**Disinfection** - Staff will request that vendors sanitize hotel rooms prior to check-in, buses twice daily, dining areas before arrival, and public areas as needed according to CDC guidelines.

**Review** - Staff will review all the safety guidelines and regulations with our vendors such as coach bus, hotels, restaurants, and venues and follow all new and established national, local government, and CDC guidance to keep our travelers and staff safe. Vamonos will closely adhere to all safety policies.

**Remind** - In partnership with group leaders, staff will remind travelers about social distancing and encourage it as much as possible without distracting from the focus of the tour. **Please review our assigned seating and rooming arrangements prior to the tour.** Vamonos will verbally convey to all travelers their personal responsibility in regards to our safety policy and hygiene standards at the start of the tour. This will take place while transferring from the airport. We will frequently remind travelers of the following:

1. Hands should be washed frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer will be provided.
2. Avoid sharing items of personal use like water bottles, eye drops, and table materials such as utensils, cups/glasses, or related items.
3. Remain socially distanced as much as possible.
4. Refrain from touching things or surfaces in public places while indoors or outdoors.
5. Always carry a travel size bottle of hand sanitizer
6. Follow safety rules and protocols of each place we visit while on tour.
7. Students will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing high touch areas in their rooms daily. Housekeeping staff will not enter rooms unless specifically requested.

**Sanitizer** - Tour staff will provide hand sanitizer for travelers as needed throughout the tour. Travelers must bring with them a small travel size bottle of hand sanitizer that can be refilled by tour staff during the tour as needed.

## **Indoor policy**

**Restaurants:** Vamonos has re-structured its itineraries to avoid indoor places to eat as much as possible. We will do our best to reserve restaurants with outdoor spaces to eat or that can accommodate our groups privately.

**Hotels:** Vamonos has also re-structured its itineraries by choosing hotels with as many outdoor facilities as possible. Our goal is to spend the least amount of time indoors and at hotels. If meals are to be served at hotels, our number one priority will be to eat outside. We are committed to booking small hotels with dining and outdoor options to avoid large numbers of guests that are not with the group. Our staff will check in all groups and distribute keys to limit traveler risk and exposure.

**Venues:** We will prioritize outdoor venues and visits on our daily schedule of events. In addition, we will avoid crowded places and seek privacy as much as possible.

**Room-sharing policy:** We suggest travelers do not share beds. We also encourage rooms with no more than 3 people in them. We will remind travelers to avoid sharing the following:

- Personal items with roommates or others (i.e. deodorant, razors, phones, phone devices, etc.).
- Unwashed towels, washcloths, clothing, or uniforms.

## **Environment / Open Air / Outdoor Policy**

Even prior to Covid-19, our itineraries have always focused on daily outdoor activities. Now and more than ever, we will increase our exposure to the outside while also avoiding crowded places as much as possible.

The following are key steps we are taking to enforce our Open Air / Outdoor Policy:

- Considerably increase our itineraries' exposure to the outdoors
- Decrease the amount of time spent indoors and, on the bus, as much as possible
- Avoid eating indoors as much as possible
- Encourage social distancing both indoors and outdoors

## **Hygiene Policy**

Vamonos staff and the group leader will address situations where travelers are not complying with the protocols.

**Handwashing with soap/water** - Everyone must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before entering and exiting the bus and all indoor venues. Additionally, travelers must wash their hands before and after eating, after using the bathroom, when dealing with food, luggage, or after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, everyone must use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol. We urge travelers and staff to cover all surfaces of their hands and rub them together until they feel dry. As a safety protocol, sanitizer should not be kept in vehicles and in places with prolonged temperatures of 90 degrees or higher.

**Avoid touching your face** - Everyone must keep their hands away from their eyes, nose, and mouth at all times, particularly if they have not been washed.

**Cover coughs and sneezes** - Travelers and staff must cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. It's preferable to cover their mouth/nose with a tissue. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze inside your elbow as you step and turn away from other people. **After coughing or sneezing** it is imperative that travelers immediately throw away any unused tissues and **wash their hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

**After your tour** - Consider reducing [non-essential activities](#) for a full 7 days after travel or a full 10 days if you don't get tested after travel. Follow [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements after travel.

## **Procedure for Travelers That Present Symptoms**

Should any traveler fail a morning health check or become sick during the day, they will be immediately quarantined from the group. If the traveler is a minor, an adult member of the group will be required to stay with the traveler. Vámonos will arrange for the sick traveler to receive medical care\* and if applicable, a Covid-19 PCR test\* as well. If the traveler's Covid-19 test comes back negative, he or she will be allowed to rejoin the group on tour as soon as they are feeling able. If the test comes back positive then the following will take place:

1. Traveler will be placed in isolation\* in a separate hotel room from the group. We will follow all school, local, and national guidelines for quarantine. The group leader will be responsible for following his/her organization's protocol for notifying the appropriate personnel and parents if applicable and assisting the tour manager with contact tracing. Those who have had close contact with the sick traveler will need to be quarantined and tested. If traveler is a minor, a parent or guardian will need to come and stay with the student until it is safe for them to travel home.
2. Vamonos will arrange for a Covid-19 test\* for the remainder of the group as soon as possible.
3. Any additional travelers with a positive Covid-19 test will also be isolated from the group as per all school, local, and national guidelines and group leader will follow his/her organization's protocols. Please bear in mind that it is possible that an entire group may need to be quarantined in isolation as per CDC recommendations though our goal is to minimize and prevent this from happening as much as we can.

4. If the rest of the group tests negative, the tour will continue as planned for the remainder of the group.

\*Cost of testing, medical care, and lodging in case of necessary quarantine and isolation will be the responsibility of the traveler or his/her parent. Vamonos strongly recommends that all travelers purchase **adequate travel insurance** prior to departure that will cover these costs in case of illness. While Vamonos takes every precaution to protect the health of its travelers while on tour, we cannot guarantee that no student will become ill on a tour, nor can we guarantee the accuracy of a Covid test result. False negatives can happen, especially when tested less than 5 days after exposure. Any parent sending their child assumes responsibility for that risk and its related expense. Vamonos will do all it can to aid and support sick travelers and their families by assisting with travel and lodging arrangements should they need it.

While some of our policies have changed, our mission to run meaningful cultural immersion tours remains the same. In keeping safety paramount, we will maintain a cultural immersion and educational focus on the experience and adventure. We promise integrity of service and commitment as we assist you on your tour and look forward to exploring our exciting destinations again.