



OUTWARD BOUND USA

Statement of Understanding COVID-19

Outward Bound is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, and information and recommendations from the national and state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority, and Outward Bound Schools are working diligently with our local public health authorities and our medical advisors to develop mitigation controls and procedures in alignment with current data. The risk of contracting COVID-19 can be reduced but not eliminated.

Statement of Understanding

I wish to enroll myself or my child (hereafter referred to as “participant” or “we”) on an Outward Bound course.

I understand, agree, and accept that Outward Bound cannot ensure that the environments participants will encounter during participation with Outward Bound will be safe from exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. I assume any and all risks related to exposure to or contracting COVID-19 during participation with Outward Bound, which could lead to 1) participant’s illness, hospitalization, and possible death and 2)the participant exposing others, including family and friends to the virus.

This document outlines the mitigation efforts participants are expected to practice, along with testing requirements and recommendations, so we can decide if we want to participate in the program. These mitigation approaches are also in a participant’s best interest so they can participate in their Outward Bound course and don’t have the unfortunate circumstance of contracting COVID just before their trip.

In order to participate in this Outward Bound course, I understand that participants must be symptom-free at course start as defined by Outward Bound medical screening protocols, and we agree to observe physical distancing and good hygiene practices for a minimum of 5 days prior to course start, including:

- Avoiding crowded indoor and enclosed spaces when possible
- Wearing a mask when being in close proximity to people in public spaces is unavoidable (N95, KN95, KF94 or similar recommended to further reduce risk)
- Washing or sanitizing our hands frequently, and always after touching surfaces that other people touch (such as elevator buttons, handrails, door pulls and fuel pump handles)
- Avoiding contact with people who are sick
- Advising OB if a participant has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19

Prior to a participant’s arrival at course start we agree to the following:

- To advise OB if the participant has tested positive or had symptoms with in 14 days of course start, or been in close contact with someone testing positive for or showing symptoms of COVID-19 within 10 days of course start
- To obtain a pre-course FDA-authorized viral test as recommended by my course advisor.
- Further, if a participant uses commercial travel, regardless of vaccination status,they agree to wear a mask and comply as closely as possible with CDC recommendations for domestic travel while in transit to the course start.

For courses with COVID-19 screening tests at or after course start, and for any course should diagnostic testing be needed:

- I authorize the collection and testing of my or my child's specimen.
- The test may require a saliva sample, or it may involve a swab (like a Q-Tip) slid into my or my child's nose to obtain a sample. It may be uncomfortable, painful, or potentially cause mild abrasion or bleeding. We understand that there is minimal risk with collection of specimens.

- We have the right to refuse testing and understand that refusal will result in a participant's dismissal from the program.
- A testing facility or a laboratory may provide test results to Outward Bound. We authorize release of test results to Outward Bound and us.
- We acknowledge that this test is not a substitute for medical advice from a health care provider. We will consult with a health care provider if a participant has tested positive for COVID-19, is experiencing symptoms, or has any other questions or concerns.
- I understand that Outward Bound and any partner lab or physician have infectious disease reporting responsibilities and will report a participant's testing information according to regulations.

We also consent to the following during participant's course and as a condition of participation:

- Participants and staff will be allowed to form a "pod" that dispenses with distancing and masking precautions once the program has started, unless someone expresses discomfort to OBCA prior to course start, and we decide to accommodate. (Group programs with vaccination exemptions will mask and distance for at least the first 5 days).
- Participant will follow health and safety instructions as demonstrated or explained by OB staff
- Participant will wear a face mask, gloves or other protective equipment as requested
- Participant will report their symptoms or have their temperature taken at any time
- Participant will submit to additional COVID-19 viral testing at Outward Bound's request

Outward Bound reserves the right to implement other requirements before or during the course based on medical advice and the judgment of OB staff. Course activities or locations may need to be altered or discontinued, potentially at the last minute or during the program. If a participant develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the program or is asymptomatic but tests positive for COVID-19, we understand they will be isolated from others while Outward Bound investigates the potential of obtaining a lab diagnosis. If a participant is positive for COVID-19 or another communicable disease, or if no testing is available, the participant will be removed and we will arrange for transportation home. We understand that if another participant or a staff member with whom we have been in close contact develops symptoms, we may be quarantined or removed from the program, if necessary, to prevent further spread.

We understand that we will be expected to follow distancing and hygiene practices that reduce the risk to myself/child and others as taught, demonstrated or otherwise explained by Outward Bound staff, and that neglecting to do so may result in my a participant's dismissal.

We understand that despite the precautions noted above, Outward Bound cannot ensure participants will not be exposed to or contract COVID-19.

We understand that older adults and people of any age who have underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. We understand and assume the risks of contracting COVID-19 willingly and agree to release Outward Bound from any and all claims related to being exposed to or contracting COVID-19.

These provisions are intended to be incorporated by reference into the Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Liability Release and Indemnity Agreement we have signed or will sign. We understand and agree to all of the above.