

COVID Practices & Policy Update for 2022 Programs

For Alaska Geographic **residential programs** to operate during the pandemic while mitigating risk for all group members and staff, we have modified our operations based on guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), input from our federal agency partners ([NPS](#), [USFS](#), [FWS](#), [BLM](#)), and in response to specific guidance from [AK Dept of Health and Social Services](#).

Alaska Geographic will require all residential program participants to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 AND share the results of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of your program's start time.*

Any COVID-19 vaccine approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) is an acceptable vaccine for this policy. Fully vaccinated is defined by the [CDC](#). Participants seeking accommodation based on religious or medical reasons may be subject to additional protocols beyond testing, including the potential for mandatory masking while maintaining social distance.

Here are some of the precautions we will take and some of our participants' expectations.

Pre-program: *Let's not bring the virus to the program!*

- We Require vaccinations with [booster shot](#) in all participants who are eligible to receive one.
- No fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms recognized by the CDC
- No known contact with or exposure to a COVID-19 carrier for previous 2 weeks
- We may, at our discretion, cancel programs if local conditions, regulations, or CDC guidelines change. In that case, full refunds will be issued to all participants.

During Program: *Let's program as if the virus were among us!*

- All program participants will be [monitored for symptoms](#). Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and we will follow CDC guidance for isolation and quarantine. Participants with COVID-19 symptoms may be evacuated from the program. If a participant is evacuated, it is unlikely they will be able to rejoin their course due to course length or logistics.
- Masks will be worn by all participants and staff when in public indoor spaces and on public transportation (program vehicles) except when eating or sleeping. Masks will be worn outside when physical distancing is not possible.
- Frequent hand washing is a must, especially before and after meals.
- Please have enough masks for the duration of your program. According to current requirements in the [national park](#), all persons must wear a mask. Masks are required inside all NPS buildings and in crowded [outdoor spaces](#), regardless of vaccination status or location.
- Classes will be held outdoors as often as possible.

Housing:

- In accordance with CDC guidelines, we will make full use of our tent cabins as necessary to reduce occupancy assigned to each living space. Participants housed in the tent cabins & tents should expect to share with up to three vaccinated individuals.
- Sanitizing supplies will be available for participants in their housing spaces.

Meals:

- Food will be served family-style. Staff and participants may assist with food serving.
- Seating will be dispersed inside the yurt and alternate indoor and outdoor eating spaces will be made available.

Post-program Reporting:

- Please tell us ASAP should you show any symptoms of COVID-19 within two weeks following the end of the program.

*If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead provide AK Geographic with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before your program **and** a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you are cleared to participate).

Alaska Geographic may offer a more flexible tuition credit, course transfer, and refund policy if you need to defer or cancel your course due to COVID-19. See our COVID-19 Cancellation Policies for more information.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations and/or substitutions that occur 60 days in advance of the course start date will be refunded the course fee, less a processing fee of \$35 per space. For cancellations and/or substitutions within 60 days of the course start date, the entire fee will be retained **unless we can fill your space**. If you need to cancel just prior to your course due to Covid-19 or because you are a close contact of someone with Covid-19, we will work with you on transferring you to another course or refunding your course fee. Registration fees are not transferable to future years. If Alaska Geographic must cancel a course, your entire fee will be refunded. Refunds will be credited to the credit card used during the original transaction if less than 60 days since the original transaction. All other refunds will be made through a mailed check. All membership purchases are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Direct impacts of COVID-19 may include you or an immediate family member becoming infected with COVID-19, if you have been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 infected individual, or travel restrictions such as stay-in-place orders where you live or border closures prohibiting you from getting

to the program. Alaska Geographic consistently reviews our policies in light of the changing pandemic and reserves the right to update this policy at any time.

Alaska Geographic recommends that all enrolled participants purchase tuition protection and travel insurance to protect their investment and guard against unforeseen circumstances. Alaska Geographic will not reimburse travel or other related third-party costs due to any COVID-19 cancellations.

Please contact Alaska Geographic with any questions.

Subject to change. Policy updated: 2/4/2022