



JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

JVC COVID-19 TRAVEL GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS

(Updated October 2020)

Traditionally many Jesuit Volunteers choose to leave their community to spend the Christmas holidays with family and friends. While the situation changes frequently, news outlets and various agencies within the federal government are providing [conflicting information](#) about whether a reliable COVID-19 vaccine will be widely available by December 2020. Accordingly, JVC is making plans under the assumption that traveling to another city, spending time with individuals you do not currently live with, and then traveling back to your city of service all present multiple opportunities for potential exposure to COVID-19.

JVC has developed guidelines/protocols to travel, visit with family friends, and return to your community this holiday season.

JVs Traveling for Any Reason (Holidays, Visits, Interviews, etc.)

Prior to booking any travel, JVC requests that all volunteers discern the necessity to travel with their community mates as well as their designated staff member (Area Manager or Coordinator). It is important to be mindful of the implications of your travel and the risk of possible exposure to COVID-19.

JVC will be treating *all travels across state lines* as potential exposure to COVID-19. Staying consistent with that, when a JV re-enters a community after traveling, **they will be asked to home isolate away from their roommates for 14 days after their travel**. A 14-day quarantine will also impact your ability to return to in-person work. Therefore, you must communicate with your agency supervisor in advance to see if you will be able to work remotely during your quarantine.

Safe Travel

For considerations for traveling safely (especially by plane), please revisit the COVID-19 orientation training on “traveling to your city of service”. Some additional considerations for travel in December 2020:

- JVs are strongly encouraged to get your flu vaccine before traveling! Ask your LFT and contact your insurance company if you need help finding a place that administers free vaccines or takes your health insurance.
- **REMINDER: DO NOT TRAVEL if you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19.** The [CDC has guidance on determining exactly when to delay your trip](#). Note: Getting [trip cancellation insurance](#) might help ensure you are able to make a last-minute cancellation or change your itinerary without losing money on flights.
- **REMINDER:** JVs should check local public health agencies, including state websites or [local health department website of their destination state](#), to find the latest interstate travel restrictions. There may be restrictions “coming and going” that JVs must follow (for example, a JV serving in Missouri may be subject to travel restrictions when they enter their home state of New York to visit for the holidays. After leaving New York, that JV may be subject to different travel restrictions when re-entering Missouri. Please do



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the research to determine what requirements must be followed leaving and entering your service city. JVs are expected to adhere to all local, state, and inter-state travel precautions.)

- The holidays are historically a very hectic and crowded time to travel. It is safe to assume that there will be more travelers than there were in August. Be prepared for potentially busier airports, more crowded flights, and possible delays or flight cancelations.
- Make sure to collect all necessary supplies well before traveling, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If you would like additional protective equipment but it is cost prohibitive, consider asking your agencies or LFTs if they are familiar with sources of free or low-cost PPE. You can also contact the JVC Finance Team if you need to make additional community purchases.

Visiting Home

- Please be intentional and thoughtful about visiting anyone at [higher risk for serious COVID-19 complications](#), especially those 85-years-old and older. Whenever possible, maintain 6-foot distance from those you do not live with. You could have potentially been exposed to the virus during your travels from your city of service to your hometown.
- Consult your doctor if it would be appropriate to use COVID-19 testing to increase the safety of your stay at home. You can also consider quarantining for 14-days before seeing any high-risk family members/friends.
- The CDC has released [guidelines for holiday gatherings](#). Please consider sharing them with your family and friends before celebrating together.

Returning to Your City of Service

After travel, JVC strongly recommends that all JVs return to their casa **within 12 hours of one another**. Consistent with all travel, returning JVs should commence a 14-day quarantine (with the day of return as Day 1), and if all JVs in your casa do not experience any symptoms, the casa can return to work in-person on Day 15. For information about how to safely quarantine, please see the “Moving To Your City of Service” orientation training.

Special Considerations:

- Consider using a Community Night or Business Meeting before traveling to revisit the COVID talk with your housemates in light of holiday travel.
 - Does the community want to set boundaries around what kind of activity they feel comfortable with for the holidays?
 - Does the community want to set an expectation that their community-mates will share what kind of social interactions they participated in over the holidays (participated in gatherings larger than 10 people, etc.)?
 - Does the community want to do a “look back” on the pro’s and con’s of their August quarantine and decide to make specific plans or agreements about



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how they will approach their January quarantine?

- **JVs are strongly discouraged from bypassing the 14-day quarantine by taking COVID-19 tests after arriving in their city of service.** When one member of the house leaves and returns, they introduce one person's potential exposure to the rest of the house. This can likely be identified and mitigated by taking a test and assuring they are COVID-19 negative before re-entering their community. When multiple members of the house travel to many different destinations via many different modes of transportation and re-introduce into the same environment (their casa), testing is insufficient to be sure that each JV did not catch COVID-19 during their travels and did not pass it to one another in the first few days of re-entering into the community.
- REMINDER: The purpose of a [quarantine](#) is
 - 1) to keep potentially infectious people from exposing their coworkers, clients, and service communities
 - 2) for the person who has recently been exposed (in this case, traveled) to be **monitoring their symptoms**. Please be mindful of headaches, fevers, a cough, gastro-intestinal symptoms, or any other potential COVID-19 symptom during this 14-day period. If symptoms develop, that person should refer to the "What to do if a JV gets sick?" training from orientation. If anyone in the house reaches a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, they should move themselves into home isolation (see orientation training) and the house should begin their quarantine period again at Day 1.

JVs who have family/friends visit their city but stay outside of the JV home

Ideally JVs discussed a policy about seeing guests/visitors when they had their COVID talk and can take precautions that make everybody feel safe. JVC asks that the JV treat their out-of-town visitors like anyone else that does not live in their house: you should try to remain 6 feet or more from any visitors when you see them, interact outside as much as possible, and wear a mask whenever they do have to come closer than 6 feet apart or are inside.

The [CDC has recently updated their definition of close contact](#). The CDC now defines [close contact](#) as someone who was within six feet of an infected individual for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Along with the rest of the rules and guidelines we've created, if a JV has confirmation that they have been exposed, that JV should commence a 2-week home isolation.

No Overnight Visitors Policy

As cases begin to spike again as the winter sets in, pandemic will overlap with flu season, and holiday travel will bring a lot of people (and their germs) across state lines, JVC is asking that JVs refrain from having any overnight visitors within their JV house. This policy includes JVs visiting from other communities.



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JVC recognizes that this can be distressing to JVs in long-distance relationships and we abhor putting you (or anyone) in this difficult position, but this is an attempt to reduce exposure as much as possible. JVC will be reassessing this policy month by month and will keep you updated about our thoughts on this.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this new policy, please contact your Area Manager or Coordinator for further discussion.