

## COVID-19 Statement and Policies Updated- Fall of 2022

### To our volunteer partners:

The policies and procedures of Esperanza International regarding COVID-19 were updated in the Fall of 2022. These requirements may change if the United States CDC or the Mexican Government's Medical Authority changes any policy or requirements as they relate to COVID-19 mitigation. Please note, the policies in Tijuana may, at times, be different than those of California or your home state and/or city. In the event of any changes to these policies group leaders will be informed by Esperanza International.

### Vaccines:

One of the most important aspects of our programming is working in a cross-border environment. While this often presents logistical challenges to us and our volunteer partners, the benefits of our work in this environment are quite rewarding. During COVID, one clear example of the challenges we all face concerns access to medical care and the reality of COVID in the lives of many of the families in the community where we work.

We are eager to return to as much of our normal programming as possible. For us to do this, it is important for The BOD of Esperanza International to **continue to request** that all members of a volunteer group interested in traveling to Tijuana and residing at the Posada be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 per CDC recommendations.

### Masks:

- Masks will no longer be required. Though masks are no longer required on each work site or at the Posada, if someone or a particular group feels more comfortable wearing a mask then they are welcome to do so.
- Group leaders are responsible for and asked to coordinate appropriate social distancing and mask wearing at the Posada and all work sites per the expectations of the group and of the sponsoring organization.

### Medical Insurance:

- Esperanza International requires all groups to obtain emergency medical insurance including repatriation to the USA as part of our planning.
- We are now adding that we are **Strongly Recommending** that this policy include quarantine protections upon returning to San Diego.

**The following will be Required for Participation in our program:**

*Even with vaccination, breakthrough infections are possible and vaccinated persons may still spread COVID to others especially those who are not yet vaccinated. To this end, it is the responsibility and **Requirement** of each group to have a “what if” plan in place should an individual exhibit symptoms of and/or test positive for COVID while in Tijuana. Below are items that must be considered as part of any plan:*

- 1. The Posada staff must be notified immediately upon suspicion of COVID symptoms of a volunteer.**
  - **The suspected case should be removed from participation with the larger group.**
- 2. A key part of this plan will be a plan for repatriation to the USA of a COVID infected person and possible need to quarantine in California before traveling home by air.**
- 3. Each group is responsible for contact tracing and the reporting of COVID infected persons as required by their local health departments upon return. Groups commit to “contact trace” and must commit to notify Esperanza International of any COVID-19 cases in the group which arise within two weeks of your return home.**
- 4. Each group must bring “At Home” COVID Tests for each participant.**
- 5. VERY IMPORTANT: The Posada may not be used as a quarantine site before returning to the USA**