



# Guidelines for Volunteers and Venues During COVID-19 Outbreak

During this National Emergency, we understand that those who are not suffering from the virus, who are vaccinated, or who may have already recovered from the virus, may want to help. However, all volunteer activities should adhere to critical health and safety protocols in order to:

- Protect Volunteers
- Protect Therapy Dogs
- Protect Clients (our populations served)
- Protect Venues

There may be venues that require volunteers to be vaccinated in order to participate. These are determined on a case-by-case basis in partnership with our venue. We will continue to modify guidelines as needed. We will not require any further medical information in these rare cases where proof of vaccination is required.

The following guidelines are to be followed **IN ADDITION TO** the guidelines and policies outlines in our [Volunteer Handbook](#) and any supplemental guidelines given by the organization or venue. These guidelines are to be followed indefinitely. Any volunteer not adhering by these guidelines will be asked to suspend volunteering until further notice.

## **BY VOLUNTEERING YOU ARE AGREEING TO THESE TERMS.**

### **General Guidelines for Volunteers:**

- **DO NOT** attempt to volunteer if you or your dog:
  - Have experienced symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 in the last 10 days without a test or 7 days with a negative test (included but not limited to: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, sore throat, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell)
  - Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days
  - Been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days without a test or 7 days with a negative test. Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
  - *Exception:* You may refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure of COVID-19 if you are fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic.



- Traveled in the last 10 days without a test or 7 days with a negative test.
  - Get tested again with a viral test 3-5 days after your trip and stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if your test is negative. If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>
    - *Exception:* You do NOT need to get tested or self-quarantine if you are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months. You should still follow all other travel recommendations.
- Been to a medium or large gathering in the last 10 days without a test or 7 days with a negative test.
  - *Exception:* You may refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure of COVID-19 if you are vaccinated and are asymptomatic
  - Social gatherings and events are limited based on a county's color-coded metric. Red counties can have up to 25 people present, orange can have 50 people, yellow can have 100 people, and blue can have up to 250 people at a gathering.
  - Go to <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm> to see current County Advisory Level.
- **DO NOT** show up to volunteer for any activity without confirming that there is a need for the activity, that it will be conducted, and that volunteer support is needed and expected.
- **DO NOT** consider volunteering if you live with or are in frequent contact with people in the higher-risk categories for the virus.
- **DO** ask about any risk that may be associated with the task and **DO NOT** take part if you are uncomfortable with the level of risk.
- **DO** practice universal infection control precautions.
  - Clean and wash your hands before, during, and after volunteering for a minimum of 20 seconds.
  - Avoid physical contact with others including therapy dogs and maintain a minimum social distance of 6 feet.
  - Cover your cough and sneezes with your elbow or tissue even if wearing a mask.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that follows CDC recommendations containing greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **DO** follow any additional safety precautions that may be required of the venue.



- **DO wear a mask at all times while volunteering.**
- **DO** allow for extra time for additional screening from Paws & Think and our program partners to make sure you are cleared to volunteer for the task.
- **DO** clean any used spaces you touch thoroughly before and after, including table top surfaces and door knobs/handles.
- **DO** use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if needed/provided for the task.
- **DO maintain the social distancing of 6 feet apart ESPECIALLY when interacting with general public.**
- **DO** expect that shifts or opportunities may be cancelled; especially volunteer opportunities working with the vulnerable populations. Please be gracious and understanding.
- **DO** register your interests and availability in Volgistics or find volunteer opportunities that may be available via Volgistics.

### **Guidelines for Therapy Dogs:**

- **DO** ensure your dogs are a minimum of 6 feet apart from all other dogs and people unless interactions with people are permitted.
- **DO ensure those petting your dog use hand sanitizer before and after the interaction.**
- **DO** bathe your dog or thoroughly wipe them down with dog shampoo wipes within 24 hours before volunteering.
- **DO** wipe down your dog in between each interaction.
- **DO** wipe down your dog after completion of your visit. It is strongly recommended to bathe your dog after visits.
- **DO** wash your dog's bandanas, vests, leashes, harnesses, and collars and the handler's apron before and after volunteering.

### **General Guidance for Venues:**

- Realize that traditional services may shift.
- Clean and sanitize gathering spaces or training sites regularly. Dispose of cleaning materials properly and contain any contaminated materials.
- If congregating is necessary for your task, consult public health partners and exercise extra measures.
- Keep a minimum of 6 feet social distance rules in place during tasks if possible.
- Provide sufficient and accessible infection control supplies (e.g. hand-hygiene products, tissues).
- Provide Clorox wipes or other surface disinfectant and receptacles for their disposal in all locations.
- When in doubt visit [CDC](#), [WHO](#), or the [State's Department of Health](#) for recommendations.



- Make sure all volunteers understand any risks associated with the task you would like them to do and understand if they are not comfortable with that level of risk.
- Screen all volunteers and clients as able and before using them.
  - It is highly recommended to do temperature checks as volunteers come in for any in-person volunteer roles
  - If anyone shows up with symptoms, they will be asked to leave immediately and notify Paws & Think leadership.
- Realize that many volunteers are over age 65 and/or at a higher risk for contracting the virus and may not be volunteering during this time.
- Make sure you have the proper PPE available and make sure you train volunteers on its proper use before allowing them to do any tasks that require PPE.

**For background and the most up-to-date information, please visit**

[CDC](#)  
[WHO](#)  
[STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH](#)  
[AVMA](#)



### VERIFICATION (TO BE COMPLETED ON OUR WEBSITE)

I have read and understand these Guidelines for Volunteers and Venues During COVID-19 Outbreak. While Paws and Think, Inc. is taking steps to limit exposure to employees and volunteers from Covid-19, I understand that there is no way to decrease the risk of the disease to zero. Notwithstanding this risk, I wish to continue participating in my role as an employee or volunteer. I agree that Paws and Think, Inc. will not be responsible and I will hold Paws and Think, Inc. harmless if I contract Covid-19 while working or volunteering for Paws and Think, Inc.

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Date

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Name