



CRS Farmer-to-Farmer Program

FAQs and information for volunteers traveling during COVID

Overview:

- CRS requires all F2F volunteers to be vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is required.
- CRS volunteer insurance covers COVID-19 as any other medical condition and will cover/reimburse volunteers for all medical issues in country
- CRS will provide reimbursement for any COVID-19 related tests and equipment that are required for travel and during the assignment.
- Quarantine days in country vary depending on the country. CRS will provide detailed information on all COVID-19 related protocols for the country prior to volunteer travel.
- Up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccine rates broken down by CRS F2F country can be found [here](#).

Frequently asked questions

1. Will CRS require all volunteers to be vaccinated?

Yes, based on USAID's implementation of US Presidential Executive order 14042, the CRS F2F program is required to ensure all traveling F2F volunteers have COVID-19. Volunteers will be asked to send a photo or scan of their vaccination card as proof of vaccination prior to travel.

2. Where can I find information on the vaccination rates in the country I will be traveling to?

Please click [here](#) for up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccine doses, including people with at least one dose, people fully vaccinated, and boosters in CRS F2F Countries.

3. Does the CRS volunteer insurance cover COVID?

CRS volunteer insurance providers Chubb & International SOS treat COVID-19 as any other medical case, and so the coverage is viable for treatment and evacuation.

4. What are the isolation/quarantining, indoor masking rules, limits on group gatherings etc. in CRS F2F countries? Are participants required to be vaccinated or wear masks?

These details vary depending on each country. CRS F2F mandates masking during all trainings but these protocols do not follow country specific guidance. CRS will provide detailed information on all COVID related protocols prior to volunteer travel.

5. What happens if a volunteer tests positive on arrival?

CRS will arrange accommodation for volunteer isolation. There are three scenarios in this case:

- i. If the volunteer is feeling well, the volunteer will train remotely from the hotel followed by travel to the field once the volunteer tests negative.
- ii. If the volunteer is not well enough to train remotely, recovery is priority, followed by the option to train remotely or travel to the field, if the volunteer is able to extend time in-country.
- iii. If the volunteer tests positive for the entire 2 weeks in-country and is unable to extend time in-country, the volunteer will return to the US once s/he tests negative and remotely support the assignment from there.

6. Will CRS provide N95 or other appropriate masks in-country?

The availability of COVID-19 related equipment varies from country to country. Therefore, volunteers should purchase COVID-19 related equipment (masks and rapid tests) as needed in the US prior to departure. Volunteers will be reimbursed for their expenses. Any unused masks and tests should be returned to a team member in the country of assignment. F2F teams and the CRS office will have masks and rapid tests available for emergencies.

7. Will CRS arrange for easy access to testing facilities upon arrival in-country? If appointments are needed, will CRS pre-arrange these for volunteers?

Volunteers are encouraged to carry rapid tests with them if they want to test as a precautionary measure. CRS will make arrangements for volunteer PCR testing prior to volunteer travel back to the U.S. These details will be integrated into the orientation process. More details will be provided prior to departure.

8. What should a volunteer do if s/he starts to feel unwell?

Volunteers will be asked to reach out to their point of contact in the country, the F2F country Director or the F2F coordinator who will provide instructions and guidance on next steps. Volunteers will have an opportunity to gather more details on the process during the in-country orientation.

9. What happens if volunteers test positive and need to be rushed to a hospital for treatment? Will assignments be close to high quality hospitals?

CRS F2F has detailed processes in place should there be a need to evacuate a volunteer to the nearest reliable hospital. More information will be provided during the pre-departure orientation process.

10. What are the COVID-19 protocols at CRS offices?

CRS offices are following strict guidance on safe use of offices including office ventilation, temperature screenings, safe use of vehicles, assignment location risk assessments, and enforced

use of masks and/or face coverings in the workplace. Guests and volunteers visiting the office require approval prior to entry and are briefed on all COVID-19 protocols. Specific processes and protocols for each country will be shared during the pre-departure orientation process.

11. Can family members accompany volunteers on their assignments?

CRS permitted family members to join volunteers on their assignment pre-COVID 19 but are currently not allowing accompanying travelers due to COVID-19 concerns. CRS will revisit this in the coming months.