

We know that traveling during these times takes a lot of trust, and we're doing everything we can to earn yours. As parents and coaches ourselves, we recognize the importance of the decision you are making to join us for one of our programs, and it is through that lens that we are planning and building our safety protocols.

In addition to thoroughly vetting every activity and vendor, our Back to Travel Task Force is continually evaluating and updating our protocols based on current CDC guidance and the recommendations of our Doctors on Call Team from the George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine. Led by Dr. Neal Sikka, who also serves as WorldStrides' Medical Director, our Doctors on Call Team is an interdisciplinary group with access to George Washington University experts from public health, infectious disease, and laboratory services (testing).

All aspects of our programs are being reviewed, from the initial planning stages to the on-tour experience, and the health and safety of our participants is our top priority every step of the way.

Here are a few ways that WorldStrides is going above and beyond:

Masks & Hand Sanitizer

WorldStrides will provide participants with two (2) disposable face masks per day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the program, including on buses and at hotels.

Daily Symptom & Temperature Checks

WorldStrides will provide contactless thermometers for temperature checks to be performed twice daily by a designated adult. Additionally, participants will be asked several questions about how they are feeling to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.

Motorcoach Protocols

Our Motorcoach partners have implemented enhanced cleaning and safety protocols. Buses will be disinfected using a variety of techniques, including electrostatic and anti-microbial sprayers, foggers, and steamers. All high-touch surfaces will be wiped down multiples times a day. Air filtration system improvements promote frequent exchange of cabin air, replacing it with fresh air from the outside. Participants will be assigned a designated seat on the bus each day, and we have established bus loading and unloading procedures that limit exposure to other participants.

Hotel Check-In

Our check-in process has been modified to limit interaction between participants and other guests at the hotel. Changes have been made to hotel arrival and departure procedures, use of lobby and elevators, and breakfast and other hotel-based activities to promote social distancing.

Hotel Cleaning

We work with hotel partners who are committed to the highest standards in cleanliness. In addition to their already rigorous cleaning protocols, they are now using enhanced cleaning products and increasing the frequency of cleaning in public spaces. Housekeeping spends extra time disinfecting surfaces in guest rooms, focusing on high contact areas such as light switches, doorknobs, and TV remotes.

Room Occupancy

We have developed flexible options to support the rooming preferences of individual travelers. We will also limit roommate switching on programs that travel between cities.

Meals

Group meals will be prepared by professionals who adhere to proper food safety and handling protocols, including mask wearing and frequent hand washing. We work closely with each meal vendor to determine the appropriate meal type and group seating configuration, secure outdoor dining when possible, and limit contact with other patrons. Individually packaged food items, grab and go, and plated and served meals will replace traditional self-serve buffet options.

Training & Preparedness

All WorldStrides staff participate in a mandatory COVID-19 training program developed by our Health & Safety Team in consultation with Dr. Sikka. All participants are encouraged to stay home as much as possible 14 days prior to departure and receive instruction on COVID-19 best practices in a pre-departure safety briefing. They will also receive a COVID-19 Advisory that includes common COVID-19 symptoms, what to do if they experience symptoms, and how to minimize risk of exposure to themselves and others. Additionally, all participants are informed of and agree to follow our Code of Conduct, which clearly outlines the participant's responsibility in adhering to all COVID-19 protocols. We have also created a "Top Travel Safety Tips" video series for participants and staff.

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Pre-Tour Illness

If a participant is symptomatic or tests positive within 14 days of departure, they should not travel with their group. Instead, they should immediately contact their Program Leader and WorldStrides Customer Support, and we will work with them on options for future travel.

On-Tour Illness

If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while participating in a program, we will help them get tested and safely separate from the rest of the group while awaiting the results. If the test result is positive, we will be there every step of the way, from helping to secure the necessary care to arranging medically-required isolation.

Post-Trip Assistance

In addition to advising all participants to monitor their health for 14 days after returning home and let their Program Leader know if they become ill, WorldStrides will work with the Program Leader or appropriate parties to carry out contact tracing and notifications as needed.

All COVID-19 safety protocols are reviewed regularly in conjunction with our Medical Director and will be adjusted as needed. Current protocols apply to 2021 programs and will be evaluated for extension to 2022 programs and beyond, with our commitment to keep them in place for as long as they are helpful in mitigating the risk of contracting COVID-19 while participating on a WorldStrides program.