

Communicable Disease Exclusion Policy  
for Valley of the Moon (VotM) Volunteers and Staff  
March 2022

In an effort to help protect and care for each other, this policy sets forth the procedures to be followed in the event of illness or suspected illness from communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

Because there will be changes to official guidance and scientific understanding, this document is also subject to change. The most current version can be found on the VotM website, in the binder labeled COVID Binder with volunteer sign-in, and/or by emailing [wizard@tucsonvalleyofthemoon](mailto:wizard@tucsonvalleyofthemoon).

I. Immediate notification

The Infection Prevention Team at VotM needs to be notified immediately of any of the communicable diseases covered by this policy, any illness that may have been acquired at VotM, or might potentially impact other staff, volunteers or patrons of VotM! If you have any question of whether you might be contagious... STOP and contact the Director of Infection Prevention, Erin Archer, RN, CIC. She can be reached at [erin@germnurse.com](mailto:erin@germnurse.com), via Slack, or more immediately by texting her cell phone number, which is available from Board members.

II. COVID-19 confirmed/suspected illness or close exposure to a case

- A. The signs and symptoms of concern are those set by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. They include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

- B. Unless there is another documented medical cause for these symptoms, they will be assumed to be from COVID-19 infection, for purposes of participating in VotM activities. A negative COVID test will be required to participate. If any of these symptoms are present, the volunteer should mask even if they have a negative COVID test (which vary widely in their reliability).
- C. Exclusion from VotM is known as a Prevention Pause and will follow quarantine and isolation criteria from the CDC. Criteria can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>.
- D. Pima County Health Department's guidance during illness can be found here: <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=539073> Usually, the guidance for Pima County and the CDC are the same. If they contradict, the Board of Valley will determine whose guidance to follow.
- E. Because immunization status, test results and symptoms are part of how the Prevention Pause is calculated, volunteers should expect to need to share that information with the Infection Prevention Team.
- F. In February 2022, the CDC changed its guidance to tie masking of vaccinated people to a County's rates and hospital capacity. Volunteers should expect that requirements for masking might change depending on the County's status change (Low, Moderate, or High) at any time. Volunteers should be supported in wearing face coverings or respirators if they choose to do so.

The CDC guidance can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

The County data page is here: <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=568644>

### III. Influenza, diarrhea and other communicable conditions

A. Volunteers or staff should not present for duty if they have a fever over 100.4F, a cough they cannot control, draining wounds that cannot be covered, conjunctivitis ("pinkeye"), or diarrhea or vomiting.

B. Even through VotM is not a healthcare setting, the CDC's "Appendix A (Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions)" document will be used to guide decisions whether a condition is contagious. "Appendix A" can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html>

Using “Appendix A” as a guide, any condition marked as anything but “Standard” precautions will need further evaluation and clearance by the VotM Infection Prevention team and may potentially need clearance by a medical provider before returning.

- IV. Common Sense: No policy can cover every situation. If you believe your infectious disease risk is cause for concern, consult with the Infection Prevention Team.
- V. Confidentiality: The Board of Directors, Infection Prevention Team and impacted Departments heads will be notified of infection risk. General volunteers will not be notified of the name of impacted volunteers, although they may be notified that someone they had contact with has tested positive, has been exposed to an infectious disease, or otherwise presents a risk.
- VI. Failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action defined in the Volunteer Handbook