Communicable Disease Exclusion Policy

for Valley of the Moon (VOM) Volunteers and Staff

December 2020

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.

Given that more continues to be learned about transmission of some illnesses, this document is subject to change. The most current version can be found on the VOM website, in the binder labeled Covid Binder and/or by emailing wizard@tucsonvalleyofthemoon.

1. The Infection Prevention Team at VOM needs to be notified immediately of any of the communicable diseases covered by this policy or other illness that may have contacted at VOM, or might potentially impact other staff, volunteers or patrons of VOM! If you have any question of whether you might be contagious… STOP and contact the Director of Infection Prevention. Erin Archer, RN, CIC can be reached at erin@germnurse.com.
2. COVID-19 confirmed/suspected illness or close exposure to a case
3. 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>. As of December 2020, those 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

1. 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 VOM activities.
2. Exclusion from VOM is known as a Prevention Pause and will follow isolation criteria from the CDC. Criteria can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>.

To summarize the guidance as of December 2020, people should avoid VotM activities:

* For at least days 10 after symptoms appeared in cases of mild illness, if there has been over 24 hours of no fever (without fever-reducing medications) AND other symptoms are improving (other than sense of taste and smell, which may not resolve for months).
* For 10 days after a positive test result, if there were no symptoms.
* For up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared in cases where illness was severe enough to require hospital admission and oxygen.
* For up to 20 days in cases where the person is immunosuppressed from cancer, advanced HIV infection, or immunosuppressant medications.

1. Prevention Pause: Close contacts should stay away from VOM and other volunteers for 14 days after their last known exposure to a person in the contagious window for COVID-19 illness. “Close contact” to a case will also follow CDC guidelines, found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html> . If symptoms develop in those 14 days, follow the isolation instructions above. (Exception: The CDC does not believe there is a need to quarantine after close contact if you have had confirmed COVID-19 illness within 3 months, unless new symptoms develop.)

As of December 2020, the CDC defines “close contact” to be:

* You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
* You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
* You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
* You shared eating or drinking utensils
* They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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
2. 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 a impacted volunteers, although they may be notified that someone they had contact has tested positive, has been exposed to an infectious disease or otherwise presents a risk.
3. Failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action defined in the Volunteer Handbook