



**OLAM**  
Improving the world. Together.

## **Covid-19 Policies & Protocols for OLAM Trips** **Updated November 2022**

OLAM has created these policies and protocols to ensure the health and safety of participants, local community members, and staff during our study trip. We will continue to monitor and abide by local Covid-19 guidelines in the country we're visiting, as a commitment to prevent the spread of the virus. OLAM reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this policy.

### **Pre-Trip**

- All participants are required to submit proof of up-to-date Covid-19 vaccination. According to the CDC, [you are up-to-date when you have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for you.](#)
- All participants are also required to submit proof of a negative rapid antigen taken within 24 hours before travel. If results are positive, please contact Amy immediately.
- If a participant is experiencing **any** Covid-related symptoms (cough, congestion, headache, fatigue, fever, etc) in the week prior to travel, please seek testing as soon as possible and inform Amy if you receive a positive test result.

### **During Travel**

- OLAM strongly encourages participants to mask while traveling. Many of you will have layovers that include countries that do not have high vaccination rates, therefore it is important to take extra precautions.

### **Travel/Medical Insurance**

- All participants are required to have medical insurance that covers international travel. OLAM will reimburse you up to \$100 in medical insurance for this trip. You should check whether your current insurance covers you internationally, or you can purchase medical insurance for your dates of travel through companies such as [International SOS](#). All participants will have to show proof of medical insurance via email to Amy Weiss.
- In addition, all participants are required to secure comprehensive travel insurance that will cover the cost of Covid-related travel extensions if you test positive and have related expenses (extended hotel stay, flight changes, food, cancellation fees, quarantine, etc). It is recommended that this insurance cover up to the full cost of the trip, or \$4,300 USD. Please note that this

insurance is separate from medical insurance. All participants will have to show proof of travel insurance via email to Amy Weiss.

### **During the Trip**

- There will be no testing conducted in-country unless someone is showing symptoms.
- If someone doesn't feel well, they MUST inform a group leader immediately so that the participant can be tested.
- A positive case may have health and cost implications for fellow participants and local community members, and may mean a change to the itinerary. We are participating in a group experience and our actions have an impact on the rest of the group. We ask that you be mindful of this throughout the trip.
- We will follow local protocols when it comes to masking indoors.

### **Positive Case Protocol**

- If a participant or staff person tests positive during the trip:
  - The person will be isolated in their hotel room.
  - Food and water will be delivered to their room.
- OLAM will notify the group, and will seek consent to reveal the participant's identity.
- The rest of the group will test and will be asked to isolate until a negative test result is received.
- OLAM will consider adjustments to the itinerary as necessary.
- Masks will be worn for all indoor events for the duration of the trip.
- OLAM staff will consider how the isolated participant can still continue to participate in the program.
- If someone has to remain in country after the trip concludes due to a positive test result, OLAM will:
  - Help the person secure lodging. Please note: Cost of lodging is the responsibility of the participant.
  - Ensure the person has a local point of contact.
  - Provide a list of important phone numbers.
  - Check in regularly with the participant.
- Please note that while OLAM staff will do everything possible to support a participant that tests positive, OLAM staff are unable to take responsibility for providing medical care or care coordination.

### **Post-Trip Positive Case**

- We request that any participant who has tested positive for Covid-19, or has associated symptoms, within 10 days of the trip, inform Amy.
- OLAM will inform other participants that they may have been exposed to the virus. We will do so anonymously - without mentioning any names of participants - unless we have obtained consent.
- OLAM will notify field staff and local community members with whom our group interacted.

**Variables that may change the policy**

- Availability of and access to booster vaccines
- Local guidelines about the number of people who are allowed to gather indoors
- New variants of Covid-19 and rate of infection
- Comfort levels of local community members
- Recommendations of OLAM's medical advisors

For any questions about this policy, please email Amy at [amy@olamtogether.org](mailto:amy@olamtogether.org)

*While OLAM chose to organize a study trip in a country that has access to Covid vaccines, we acknowledge that some of the world's population does not have such access. We are committed to advocating for increased vaccine and testing access in the Global South, through partnering with global initiatives that make access more equitable.*