

Well Being Foundation's Policies

with regard to

COVID-19 Precautions

Updated July 16, 2021

As COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to fluctuate in the U.S. and throughout the world and since further variants of the virus may emerge, Well Being Foundation has updated the following Policies and Procedures to minimize the risk of contracting coronavirus while at Well Being Retreat Center.

What Is Known or Understood at this Time

Symptoms: COVID-19 can exhibit different symptoms in different people, but may include respiratory symptoms, cough (especially a dry cough), shortness of breath and breathing difficulties, fever, sudden loss of the sense of smell or taste, and tingling or numbness of extremities.

Variability: People may also be contagious with no symptoms. The Covid vaccines appear to reduce the severity of symptoms but do not eliminate the possibility of contracting or transmitting the virus. It is not known how long you may be protected from more severe symptoms if you have had Covid (natural immunity) or if you have had one of the Covid vaccinations. It is also not known how long it will be after the cessation of symptoms before a person is no longer contagious. This virus affects different people differently. Younger people appear to be less likely to develop symptoms but may become infected and be able to transmit the virus. People with underlying health issues like heart disease or diabetes are much more likely to suffer severe symptoms than people who are healthier to begin with. (Of course, the magnitude of the viral dose matters and even healthy young people have died from the virus.)

Most common Route of Transmission: COVID-19 appears to be an upper respiratory infection although it may also affect the blood and other tissues in the body. At least initially, transmission requires a human host. Therefore, the source is exhalation of the breath (especially loud talking, singing, or sighing), sneezing or coughing. All of these movements of air out of the lungs and throat and mouth carry moisture or even droplets that can carry the virus. With time, these droplets settle to the ground or are dissipated by air movement (and possibly sunlight) in

outdoor spaces. Larger droplets (say from sneezing) are likely to carry a much higher viral load from an infected person than normal breathing.

Time of Exposure Matters: Where these virus-carrying droplets tend to linger is in indoor spaces with recirculated air. This relates to duration of exposure. In other words, being in a room with an infected person for four hours is much more likely to result in viral transmission than being in the same room for four minutes with that same person. Many have died in nursing homes and prisons where leaving was not an option.

Proximity matters: The closer you are to an infected person the higher the viral concentration in the air around such a person is likely to be. The common six-foot social distance is only an approximate guideline. The safety of that six-foot guideline depends on other factors such as whether the other person is indoors, facing you and coughing. Many have become infected at restaurants and family dinner parties due to long duration, proximity and stagnant air.

Surfaces: Surfaces become a source of infection when exhalation droplets from an infected person land or when they are transferred to such surfaces within a relatively short time after leaving the body. In other words, if an infected person coughs or sneezes into their hand and then touches the doorknob, the doorknob is likely to retain viruses for a while. How long is not known, but it is known that the virus deteriorates over time. In other words, it will be much more infectious one hour after such contamination than it will be one day later, and even less so three days later. Surfaces can be disinfected by hand-wiping with a disinfectant chemical such as a Clorox solution.

Hands: The general rule is to keep your hands away from your nose or mouth and wash your hands with soap after any potential contact. If you have to cough or sneeze, use a disposable tissue or, if necessary, cough or sneeze into your elbow if you are wearing a long sleeved shirt. Dispose of the tissue immediately and wash your hands with soap.

General Recommendation for the Public

From the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) website: “Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing. WHO stressed that face masks were only one of a range of tools that

can reduce the risk of viral transmission, and should not give a false sense of protection. Current WHO recommendations are [HERE](#).

The [CDC recommends](#) washing hands with soap and water before eating, after eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, and using an effective face mask when around other people

The CDC also recommends that people “avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth; cover their coughs and sneezes; disinfect surfaces regularly; stay home when they are sick and avoid others who are sick.”

Other Prudent Precautions

[Dr. Deepak Chopra, M.D. recommends](#) prudent things you can do to improve your immunity that includes getting 7-8 hours of sleep each night, reducing stress through lifestyle choices and meditation, eating nutritious food, spending time in Nature, doing breath work, including immune supportive foods in your diet (ginger, turmeric, adaptogens, etc.), taking supplements that you believe to be of value, and, of course, avoiding contact with infected persons.

If Symptoms Are Present

If symptoms are present or if you have been in a location where contact with an infected person is likely (larger gatherings, airlines, etc), or have cared for an untested person with Corona-type symptoms in recent weeks, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

1. Isolate yourself from others. Use a face mask or ask others who may be attending to you to wear face mask.
2. Get tested for COVID-19 virus immediately.
3. Follow medical advice to reduce the chances of complications and to avoid contaminating others.

Well Being Retreat Center Policies

1. **Exposure Prior to Retreat:** If you are scheduled to come on retreat at WBRC as a participant and (a) you have tested positive for Corona virus or (b) you have the symptoms of Corona virus but have not yet been tested, do yourself and others the favor of your absence. Let us know and WBRC will refund whatever payment we have received from you immediately and in full. (This policy supersedes whatever non-refundable provisions you may have

previously agreed to.) If you find yourself getting sick with flu-like symptoms while on retreat, please let Patty know. We can prorate your accommodation costs if you need to leave the retreat, or perhaps we can move to you a room by yourself and deliver meals to your cabin until you can ride home.

2. Personal Practices During Retreat:

- If you have to cough or sneeze, do so into a single use tissue, or, if necessary, into the crook of your arm (if you are wearing a long sleeve shirt).
- If you find yourself coughing during a session, please leave the session immediately.
- Avoid touching your own mouth, eyes and nose.
- Use Namaste, hands-over-your heart or other gesture to greet instead of shaking hands or hugging.
- Mark your own glass and mug and only drink out of your own.
- Do not share food on your plate with others.
- Keep your mouth and throat moist by sipping water throughout the day.
- Remain at least six feet from others. Avoid long face-to-face conversations at close distances. Do not meet with others indoors.
- Wear a mask when in the shared bathrooms and do not exceed two persons at a time in the group bathrooms at the Pavilion or Conference Building.
- Do not share a cabin with someone else or invite someone else to your cabin unless you agree to be exposed to whatever viral load they may be carrying.

3. Meeting Facility Policies:

- Until further notice, all group sessions will be outdoors in the open-air Powell River Pavilion next to the office. The Conference Building will not be used (except the bathrooms are available to those staying in the Cabinettes).
- All meals on hosted retreats will be served in the open-air Powell River Pavilion.
- The men's and women's restrooms at the office next to the Powell River Pavilion will be available at all times during the retreat.

4. Kitchen Staff Policies

- Wash hands upon entering the kitchen, after using the bathroom, after handling garbage containers, and after you have handled any meat.
- Use latex gloves when preparing or serving food that is not cooked.
- Wear a face mask while you are in the kitchen
- Use disinfectant spray on all kitchen counters after each meal.
- Soak all dishes in the soak sink at least 30 seconds with a dropperful of Clorox in the tub.
- Serve food to retreat participants so that participants don't have to successively handle the serving utensils.
- Do not work in the kitchen at all if you have a cold or any flu-like symptoms.
- Note: Retreat participants will not be asked to do Yogi Chores in the kitchen until further notice (to avoid proximity to others and handling other people's food plates).

5. Cabin Policies:

- **Ozone Disinfection:** Immediately after each occupancy, WBF will sanitize Cabins using ozone generators to maintain an ozone concentration of between 2.5 and 5 parts per million (ppm) of ozone for a minimum of 2 hours. This concentration for this duration has been determined by the US Army (see Technical Bulletin TIP # 98-105-0420) to disinfect buildings even if they were previously occupied by COVID positive patients. After the two hours of ozone treatment, the ozone generator will turn off automatically and the cabin will remain closed for at least eight hours while the ozone dissipates naturally to safe levels. (The cabin must be kept vacant during this ozone treatment).
- **Additional Surface Cleaning:** After the ozone treatment, all counters, sinks, door handles, light switches, tabletops, and faucets will be additionally hand-cleaned with a disinfecting chlorine solution.
- **Linens:** All linens and towels will be washed and dried in a dryer at a sufficient temperature to kill bacteria and viruses.
- **Between occupancies,** cabins will be cleaned by a person wearing a mask.
- **Resting Cabins:** As an additional precaution, cabins will remain vacant for at least two days between occupancies.

6. **Policies with Respect to Vaccinations:** WBF anticipates that some people present at events will be vaccinated and some will not. The precautions taken as outlined in this policy document are believed to be largely preventative, however, as with any group activity risk cannot be eliminated completely.
7. **Personal Responsibility:** Based on you own assessment of the efficacy of the policies specified in this document, please make your own decision whether or not to attend an event at Well Being Retreat Center. By attending an event at Well Being Retreat Center, you agree to hold WBF, its Directors, staff, contractors, and volunteers harmless from any eventualities related to coronavirus and its variants.