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COVID-19 & MISSION WORK GROUP PROTOCOL

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Our goal is to protect and maintain the health and safety of our local staff and volunteers, the U.S. mission work groups, and the families we work with while continuing to operate our programs in Mexico. We have established the following protocol to minimize risk while continuing to operate as normally as possible:

VACCINATION: Vaccines are no longer required, but **being as up to date on vaccinations as possible is recommended and preferred** in order to protect vulnerable families, volunteers, and workers you may encounter while in Mexico. In addition, having a fully vaccinated team helps decrease the risk of interruptions to your trip.

PRIOR TO TRAVEL, we ask that you:

1. Review Faith Ministry COVID-19 protocol in advance to make sure everything is clear.
2. Purchase rapid tests for personal use, ideally two tests per group member (if possible, bring extras for ministry staff).
3. Refrain from traveling if COVID positive (or presumed positive if individual had contact with a positive case and has symptoms) within five days of departure (if symptoms have resolved). CDC recommends continuing to mask up for five days after quarantine period has ended.

WHILE IN REYNOSA, if a group member develops symptoms (fatigue, fever, scratchy throat, body aches, headache, etc.):

1. Immediately isolate group member and use a rapid test.
 - If negative, continue to mask and isolate while symptomatic; group can use discretion on whether to cross the individual back. Retest after two days.
 - If positive, isolate and mask, and a Faith Ministry staff will cross the individual as soon as possible to McAllen, TX, to quarantine in a hotel.
2. If a positive case has been detected, the staff, volunteers, and mission work group will mask up while indoors and restrict contact/practice social distancing.

KEEP IN MIND:

1. Our staff and local volunteers will be following the same protocol (staying home and testing if they have symptoms, sent home to quarantine if they test positive, etc.)
2. Remember to self-monitor and be upfront about your symptoms with group leader and Faith Ministry staff. Even if you think the symptom could be from something else (heat, travel, etc.), assume the worst and test.
3. Access to healthcare is challenging in Reynosa, and it's one of the reasons we want to err on the side of caution to protect our staff, the local volunteers, and the families we work with.

Contact Colleen Hernandez with any questions (colleen@faithministry.org, 919-606-9361). Thank you!