

COVID-19 Volunteer Health Policy

At Open Door Mission, the health and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff, and neighbors is our highest priority. Under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD), we are taking precautions to protect our community. Our policies enforce social distancing, proper hygiene, sanitation, and safe interactions during our hours of operation and volunteer shifts.

As always, we encourage volunteers to make the right decision for themselves when it comes to volunteering their time during this pandemic.

Individuals should **only** volunteer if they are well and not showing any symptoms. Volunteers who experience changes in their health, including respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties should cancel or reschedule their volunteer shifts. Volunteers should notify volunteer@opendoormission.org or their Volunteer Manager if they are unable to fulfill their volunteer shift.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Below, please find answers to some frequently asked questions.

What is Open Door Mission doing to protect me?

Open Door Mission is following guidance from the CDC and DCHD to implement policies that protect the health of our volunteers, our team, and our community. We ask all volunteers to adhere to our hygiene protocol, including washing hands upon arrival, wearing gloves when handling food, washing hands and changing gloves anytime you change activities and after you touch your face or use the restroom or your phone. We also ask that all volunteers follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible, maintaining a minimum of 6 feet of space between you and your fellow volunteers. We have revised our operating procedures to ensure social distancing is possible. Open Door Mission has also altered our food distribution model, eliminating person-to-person contact with our guests and using physical markers to keep distance between volunteers, our guests, and each other. Disposable paper products are being used as much as possible at this time.

Will I be provided with a facemask?

[The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain](#) (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. As a precautionary measure, we require volunteers to wear a face mask (cloth, scarf, medical (3 ply), etc.) during their volunteer shift. The cloth face coverings recommended by the CDC are not surgical masks or N95 respirators. In accordance with this guidance and due to the national supply shortage, Open Door Mission is not currently providing face masks to volunteers. [Click here to learn more about the CDC's Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings.](#)



Will I interact with the community?

Open Door Mission has changed its distribution models to eliminate person-to-person contact and promote social distancing during volunteer shifts. Behind-the-scenes shifts that require no community interaction include sorting, organizing and stocking shelves, food preparation, and sanitization of shelves and high traffic areas. In these roles, volunteers will not interact with community members. Open Door Mission staff members will be present to provide guidance and support.

With Social Distancing, am I allowed to volunteer?

Under Social Distancing, volunteering with a nonprofit that performs essential service is permitted. We understand that you may have additional questions about COVID-19. We encourage you to read the CDC's recommended precautions to take to help slow the spread of the virus. The CDC guidelines identify that people that are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are people over the age of 65 and all people with underlying health conditions. Please be aware of your health and if need be, choose to [volunteer from home](#). When new developments arise that may impact Open Door Mission's volunteer programs, we will provide updates to you. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our community.

Volunteers who have previously exhibited COVID-19 symptoms or are in recovery should follow the recommended CDC guidelines.

Please consult with your healthcare provider and state and local health departments in determining when to stop home isolation. In alignment with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, we ask that individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 only volunteer under the following conditions:

- If you have successfully home isolated during the duration of your symptoms
- If at least 10 days have passed since your COVID-19 symptoms first appeared, and there are no longer any symptoms (including fever, cough, shortness of breath).

What to wear when volunteering?

Please wear comfortable clothing and closed toe closed heel shoes. If volunteering in the Kitchen, wear a ball cap. This omits having to wear a hair net and bring a fun apron from home (optional). We are family!