

CECorps - COVID-19 Update

Last updated: September 2021

Community Engineering Corps (CECorps) staff appreciates our volunteer's patience and persistence during these challenging times. **Effective June 1, 2020**, CECorps will no longer have a travel ban in place and instead will seek to follow state, county, and local guidelines. **Effective September 1, 2021**, CECorps has required full vaccination for all volunteers traveling to community partners. Please read 'New COVID-19 Requirements and Travel Protocols' section below for more information. **Please note that CECorps supports "Safer at Home" practices and considers its work to be non-essential.**

As we navigate the pandemic, we continue to hold staff, volunteers, and our community's health of paramount importance.

FAQs

Now that there is not a travel ban, what would CECorps like us to do while considering travel to the communities we work with?

CECorps supports "Safer at Home" and considers our work to be non-essential. If volunteers choose to travel or visit their communities, the following guidelines must be followed for any travel related to CECorps activities.

- Express permission to visit the community, community partner, or project site is expected from the community contact. Despite lifted restrictions, some communities may feel that the risk is still too great to accommodate volunteers or may request a limited presence of volunteers. Where permission is not obtained, traveling to the community is strictly prohibited.
- A CECorps Trip Report and signed waivers by all traveling volunteers must be submitted two weeks prior to your trip for approval. If you have questions regarding Trip Reports, please contact your CECorps Program Engineer.
- **New COVID-19 Requirements and Travel Protocols for EWB-USA Travelers Effective 9/1/2021:**

COVID-19 Travel and In-Person Service Vaccination Requirement. CECorps volunteers traveling and conducting in-person business on behalf of CECorps are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Fully vaccinated means at least two weeks after the final shot in the required timing and dosage, one shot for Johnson & Johnson, two shots for Moderna (with 28 days between shots), and two shots for Pfizer (with 21 days between shots). This requirement has been adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our volunteers and employees and their families; our partner organizations; our partner communities and others who meet in person. It is

consistent with guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities. Individuals are instructed to consult with their personal physician to discuss the benefits and risks before receiving their COVID-19 vaccine, ensuring it is appropriate for their unique circumstances. Volunteers who are unable to comply with this requirement should not travel to community project sites or conduct any in-person business on behalf of CECorps. Volunteers seeking an exemption from this requirement will not be granted permission to travel or conduct in-person services as it poses a direct threat to the health and safety of our partner communities. Remote volunteer opportunities are available for volunteers who are unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Volunteers choosing to travel on behalf of CECorps assume the potential risk of contracting COVID-19. Volunteers are individually responsible for taking proper health precautions, including in the purchase and use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and the maintaining of social distancing. All state, county, and local COVID-19 related restrictions are to be followed.
- Consult and be familiar with the following resources. Understand that there may be conflicting information and in these cases, the most strict precautions must be followed.
 - o Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - “Coronavirus and Travel in the United States”
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.htm>
 - o State health agencies:
<https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html>.
 - o Counties and local governments resources

What is CECorps doing in light of COVID-19?

CECorps continues to work toward our mission of bringing underserved communities and volunteer engineers together to advance local infrastructure solutions.

- New project applications are still being accepted, and new volunteer teams are still being formed to respond to the needs of our clients.
- Many of our projects can move forward in a remote style and we are encouraging our teams to continue their work to assist their communities and complete their projects to the best of their ability. Teams are finding creative ways to gather data remotely, either through the client or through other resources.
- Our student and professional volunteers are connecting virtually, continuing to produce designs and reports, and engaging with an array of educational resources that allow them to produce deliverables for our clients and communities.

What are CECorps' options for Remote Support and other alternatives?

CECorps' commitment to our communities should continue through remote project work as long as quality can be maintained. If you are unsure the first best step is to schedule a call with your Program Engineer. CECorps has limited grant funding that may be used for project team virtual needs.

What if my community would like to postpone or cancel the project due to COVID-19 concerns?

CECorps staff considers our work to be more critical than ever. Helping to support healthy communities through advancing infrastructure is an important role to play. However, as a community-driven organization, the needs of the community come first. To navigate changes to your project, please contact your program engineer.

What if my team can't continue due to members affected by COVID-19 or other reasons?

CECorps staff understands that our volunteers are navigating significant changes due to COVID-19 considers our work to be more critical than ever. If your team is struggling to continue or having other challenges, please contact your program engineer. We are here to help!