

Guidance on Undergraduate Community Service: Fall 2021

The Center for Community Service, Office of Engagement and Inclusion, Burke Scholarship Program, Campus Ministry and Service Learning Program

1) Basic guidance:

- 1) No Marquette employee can allow or encourage students to engage in service activities or other actions that would violate a federal, state, city, or university health order.
- 2) Regardless of format, program staff must be cognizant of the increased workload, financial pressures, and racial justice work that may limit the capacity of community partners to provide service roles, supervise adequately, and act as co-educators.

2) All in-person service:

- i) Student volunteers are expected to inquire with the community agency about safe practices and comply with the same level of PPE as staff in a similar capacity at the service site. Students must follow the host organization's COVID safe practice regulations. For example, a host organization's safe practice expectations may include proof of vaccination. Students are expected to provide requested documentation honestly and transparently; Marquette-granted vaccine exemptions are likely not honored by community partners.
- ii) In addition to site-specific expectations, Marquette regulations apply while a student is serving off-campus. This includes mandatory indoor masking.
- iii) Community partners may have additional expectations and guidelines for volunteers, which may include safe behaviors and practices outside of the volunteer role. Before committing to a service role, students must inquire about these additional expectations and commit to adhering to them. Volunteers must communicate honestly with their host sites. Host sites have the authority to remove volunteers if they no longer feel comfortable with their presence on-site.
- iv) Students must consider their personal risk factors when engaging in in-person service. Students must critically consider their own health and the health of those with which they interact closely, especially if they are in frequent contact with others who are at-risk.
- v) Students must also consider that they may pose a risk to vulnerable communities by unknowingly transmitting COVID-19 to their service site. If engaging in community service, students must commit to adhering to safety measures in all aspects of their work/study/social lives. Students are also encouraged to limit their service involvement to one community site as multiple engagements increases risk for a volunteer to spread disease.
- vi) COVID vaccines are safe and effective at reducing transmission of the virus. Students engaging in service are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their community on- and off-campus.
- vii) Although masking is not required when serving outdoors, students are highly encouraged to mask when working in close proximity to individuals from vulnerable communities.
- viii) Students who present with [COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms](#), suspect COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to the virus must refrain from visiting their service site. Students are encouraged to utilize the university [Voluntary Disclosure Form](#) and

available [testing](#). Students are expected to communicate absences with program staff and site staff as appropriate to the program.

- ix) University program staff or the community partner may choose to discontinue an in-person service program if the risk level grows.

3. In-person placements (i.e. Service Learning, 414 Fellows)

- 1) University program staff should do due diligence to clarify whether there is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g., gloves, facemasks, gowns, eyeshields, etc.) required and available for students and that the community partner is adhering to appropriate social distancing and complying with federal, state, city guidelines. Student volunteers should be provided with/expected to comply with the same level of PPE as staff in a similar capacity.
- 2) Due diligence would include a formal affiliation agreement with the placement site. Where possible, utilize existing affiliation agreements to ensure student safety.

4. Transportation

- i. Students continue to have a variety of options for transportation to their service site, all with varying level of risk depending on the circumstances. Students should take ownership of their personal safety and make decisions accordingly.
- ii. While using transportation, all Marquette COVID-19 policies still apply, including required masking.
- iii. University-owned Community Service Vans may be used by student groups following existing procedures and guidelines. Masking is required and windows must be open whenever possible.
- iv. The use of personal vehicles is permitted when following existing vehicle safety policy and COVID-19 policy, including masking and hygiene practices.

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