



Serve Washington

Changing Communities. Changing Lives.

Risk Assessment for AmeriCorps Programs During COVID-19

Overarching Themes:

- Only pull responders from their given area as they are already within that community and any exposure a community is experiencing.
- Deployment is optional. Members have other options, including teleservice, suspension (leave to allow time to make up hours later), or CPC exiting service.
- Only deploy members that are not at-risk or do not have an underlying health condition that may make them more susceptible to COVID-19. Because one cannot ask these questions this makes deployment an individual voluntary decision.
- Communities will need young, healthy individuals to respond and support the nonprofit and community infrastructure during this time, as they are the ones least likely to be impacted adversely by COVID-19.
- Utilize increased level of PPE (personal protective equipment) when engaging in activities that have potential to be higher than low to moderate risk. Serve WA is not supportive of anything greater than low to moderate risk.
- Consult with your legal team as this is not legal or formal guidance.

Types of deployment should be low to moderate risk.

Questions to ask to determine if low or moderate risk include the following:

- How many people will be attending or in the space at one time?
- Can social distancing (6 feet, or three feet each way, or?) be maintained?
- Are you likely to come in to contact with someone who is suspected, potentially or with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19?
- What safety precautions can be/are in place?
- Is there a process for training on safety protocol and personal protection and a way to monitor and assess compliance with those protocols?
- Does the process align with local (city, county) and state guidelines? Does it align with Department of Health and CDC guidance?

Examples of service or modifications to service (PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES are STILL PROHIBITED):

- Delivery of food to someone by setting food on doorstep and that person not opening door to grab food until delivery person has left.
- Modify attendee control in a food distribution so there is no hand-to-hand—hand off goods, but placement of goods on a table, line and room or area entry control, and standardized cleaning timing.

- Other community feeding support, such as meal and food prep, planning/coordination, packing, distribution/delivery, warehousing/inventory, safety inspection, and related activities.
- Remote call center support—dial in remote call centers are ideal; example, provide support to 2-1-1 or other community call centers.
- Modifying in-person coaching around accessing higher education or other types of case management to zoom or other web/phone based coaching.
- Wellness checks on volunteers or other populations using a phone tree, or similar methodology. Conduct wellness checks on the elderly and vulnerable populations via phone calls, text messaging, or talking through the door.
- Infrastructure support, such as, maintain school gardens, sanitizing play grounds, other projects where there is access to now “empty” areas and service can follow social distancing.
- Using online resources to engage with fellow AmeriCorps members in Civic Reflection activities or weekly team meetings. Participate in or lead virtual civic reflections or other discussions related to how to serve the community during COVID-19.
- Coordinating with schools to help with delivery of educational content using online resources (for example, reading books that can be shared with students, conducting science experiments, virtual tours, virtual lessons) material may be recorded or presented “live”.
- Assist with local health departments/offices with coordinating public health initiatives and health/safety education efforts.
- Assist with coordinating in-kind donations related to COVID-19 community needs (food donations, supply drives, blood drives, etc.).
- Assemble hygiene and disaster preparedness kits for high-need populations such as the homeless, those living in shelters, and other low-income communities.
- Assist with childcare or other support for first responders.
- Assist with data entry/analysis for response efforts.
- Provide support to neighborhood initiatives such as stocking free community libraries, micro food pantries, etc.
- Environmental stewardship and restoration activities.
- Disaster services, such as mitigation and response activities.
- Building/Renovation projects, such as those commonly seen with Habitat for Humanity.
- Donating blood.

It's important to remember Prohibited Activities are still prohibited. With the landscape changing; one prohibited activity to remember is members' service CANNOT “provide a direct benefit to” a business organized for profit [45 CFR §2520.65 \(8\)\(i\)](#). Please contact your Program Officer with any questions.

***See also CNCS Disaster Services Team’s Risk Management Tool published 4/2/20.**

***See also WA State DOH Recommendations to Protect Critical Workers published 4/9/20.**