



# MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE

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# INSTITUTO MONTEVERDE

## Monteverde Institute COVID-19 policy: UPDATED – MARCH 8, 2020

The Monteverde Institute considers our student, staff, and community health of paramount importance in our policies. We continually consult with health and safety professionals, and refer to the Costa Rican Health Ministry, the Centers for Disease Control (U.S.), and the World Health Organization directives.

Prevention and minimizing transmission is most important at this time, as well as obtaining medical attention if the illness occurs. The MVI has implemented protocols in our installations and with our staff, providers, and students (see protocol attached). Testing kits are available with the Costa Rican health system (CCSS) and the Ministry of Health has been screening incoming airline passengers.

We are reading many university's statements regarding their study abroad positions and appreciate the difficult decision regarding international travel.

We will update our response as needed based on new information or developments. Any changes to our response will be communicated

If you have questions or concerns regarding an upcoming course with the MVI, please contact the Academic Department to discuss the current situation and options ([mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org)).

It is of utmost importance that information is obtained from valid sources. The Ministry of Health (MOH) emphasized that it remains the official source for any news regarding COVID-19 in Costa Rica and has continued its campaign against fake news related to COVID-19.

<https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/centro-de-prensa/noticias/741-noticias-2020/1532-lineamientos-nacionales-para-la-vigilancia-de-la-infeccion-por-coronavirus-2019-ncov>



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## Monteverde Institute health protocol: UPDATED – MARCH ,4 2020

The health and safety of our international program participants is of utmost importance for the Monteverde Institute. Our long-term dedication to promoting public health is reflected in our strong health and safety protocols and our community health program in Monteverde.

The Costa Rica Health Ministry released a Protocol of Action for Health Centers regarding COVID-19 and has testing capacity with result turnaround time of 12 hours. To date, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Costa Rica. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the Costa Rica Health Ministry, the MVI has implemented or reinforced the following:

### On campus:

- All door handles, computer accessories, phones, bathrooms, and common areas cleaned twice daily with disinfectant
- Instructional signage around campus with preventive measures from the CDC and Costa Rica Health Ministry
- Lysol spray and wipes in every office and classroom
- Bathrooms are always stocked with closed toilet paper dispensers, closed disposable paper towel dispensers, and hand-washing instructional signs
- Face masks and gloves available with first aid kit supplies
- The Institute facilities are naturally well-ventilated but not drafty

### Off campus activities and services:

- All MVI are regularly updated by the human resources department.
- Each group's coordinator is supported by the MVI Emergency Response Team, is oriented to our protocols, and has been informed of COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- Emergency response protocols include contact information for nearest medical facilities for all areas of the country visited by courses
- Our touristic service providers are updated by the Health Ministry and Tourism Institute regarding best practices

### Communication:

- We closely monitor the information provided by the CDC and the Costa Rica Health Ministry: <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/>
- Communication with partner institution faculty and international studies offices
- Program orientation includes precautionary measures to prevent the spread of illness, including COVID-19
- Updated communication will be posted on our web-site and to staff, clients, students, homestay families, and clients.

### In the case of suspicious symptoms or exposure:

- Isolate the affected person in a designated room that is well-ventilated and comfortable.
- Assist the person showing symptoms to get medical attention (and testing if warranted) using CDC transport protocols.
- Ensure the recommended sanitation and isolation measures are taken wherever the patient has been housed and receiving care
- Provide cleaning and personal protection supplies to the caretaker, if needed
- Follow directives of the Costa Rica Health Ministry, the sending institution, and CDC recommendations

## Monteverde Institute Emergency Team

...includes staff trained in wilderness medicine, on-call medical doctor, psychologist, crisis manager, legal support, and logistics coordination

...will assist any participant who becomes ill to visit a medical facility and be tested if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.

MVI emergency protocols and updates on specific issues such as COVID-19 are available on our website:

<https://monteverde-institute.org/protocols.html>