As the city’s lead organization designated by New York City Emergency Management to mobilize volunteers in cases of citywide emergencies, we are in regular communication with city agencies on how our volunteers can make the most direct and meaningful impact at this time while taking necessary precautions.

We believe in facilitating vital service opportunities if Community Partners remain open and volunteers are ready and able to meet that need in a safe environment. We are continuing to identify ways this can be done in accordance with city guidance on preventing or slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The health and safety of our volunteers, Team Leaders, and the people we serve remains our top priority. We are working with our Community Partners to ensure that city guidance is followed to slow the spread of COVID-19 and are requiring the following:

- Have hand sanitizer easily available and accessible hand washing stations
- Instruct volunteers to wash their hands upon entering your building
- Post visible displays of preventive measures (e.g. flyers, signage)
- Ensure that bathrooms and shared spaces are deep-cleaned and disinfected as per the General Disinfection Guidance for Commercial or Residential Buildings
- Limit convening in populated areas, such as, waiting rooms, lobbies, etc.

All directives and recommendations pertaining to COVID-19 issued by NYC Health or other relevant City agencies must be followed such as:

- For gatherings with 49 people or fewer, the city advises facilities to remain at less than 50% capacity in order to better encourage social distancing.
- Allowing for 6 feet of distance between people

We are also asking volunteers to adhere to our safety requirements to help in this effort.

There is now widespread community transmission of COVID-19 in New York City, meaning the sources of new infections are unknown. Everyone in New York City should act as if they have been exposed to COVID-19. That means monitoring your health closely and staying home from if you are sick.
If any of the following conditions apply to you, we ask that you not sign-up for any project at a Community Partner location and stay at home for the safety of everyone:

1. If you currently have a cough, fever, or any respiratory illness
2. If you currently have a heart condition, lung disease, diabetes, or any other serious health condition, or are over the age of 65
3. If you or anyone in your household have traveled to China, Iran, South Korea, Japan, or Europe in the past two weeks
4. If you or anyone in your household have been in close contact with anyone who is confirmed to have COVID-19

If none of conditions 1-4 apply to you and you are comfortable volunteering, you may sign up for a project at a Community Partner location.

Before you begin a project, we’ll ask that you wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and water or use the alcohol-based sanitizer that we’ll provide.

If you must stay home for the safety of our community, we may have remote/digital volunteer opportunities soon that you may sign-up for.

**We continue to be awed by the volunteers, Team Leaders and staff for their ongoing efforts to keep their fellow New Yorkers healthy**, whether that’s by staying home if feeling unwell or uncomfortable, or volunteering while following the guidance from NYC Health. Thank you for your service.