

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 are committed to harnessing the passions of caring New Yorkers in a way that supports their safety and the safety of the people we serve.** Due to the essential and immediate needs of our programs, New York Cares has not canceled all programming at this time, unless a partner has chosen to do so.

**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 accessible hand washing stations and/or hand sanitizer easily accessible
- 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 allowing for 6 feet of distance between people.

New York Cares volunteers serve in a critical capacity by providing food and other essential services to economically disadvantaged New Yorkers. **According to Executive Order 202.6, food service and other immediate needs are deemed essential business and are therefore exempt from the order.**

In partnership with the city's Volunteer Coordination Task Force, we are actively enforcing the following [safety requirements](#) on our projects:

If any of the following conditions apply to you, stay home and **DO NOT SIGN UP** to volunteer:

- You are sick
- You are over 50 years old or have chronic health conditions, including chronic lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, cancer or a weakened immune system

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.

**While volunteering on a project during the COVID-19 outbreak we require the following:**

- Wash your hands often, including at the start and end of your volunteer opportunity. Use soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when sneezing or coughing. Do not use your hands.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Do not shake hands.
- Monitor your health more closely than usual for cold or flu symptoms.
- Do not gather in large groups.
- Keep at least six feet between you and others.

**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.