

Loudoun Valley Emmaus

Covid-19 Guidelines

2022

It is the intent of the Loudoun Valley Emmaus Community to conduct Gatherings, Teaming and Weekend Walks and any other events in the safest manner during the COVID-19 pandemic and post COVID-19 pandemic following practices and rules that are, in this order, based on policies that are in effect at the church or facility where a gathering, teaming, or a Weekend Walk is being conducted; if none, then following the policies or mandates that are in effect at the county level; if none, then the policies or mandates that are in effect at the state level; and lastly the policies or mandates that are in effect at the federal level. The health of our Emmaus Community members and pilgrims are first, and foremost our greatest concern. These Guidelines were approved at our LVE Board on January 8, 2022 and allowance for Rapid Testing added at our February 5, 2022 meeting.

The LVE Board will prayerfully seek divine guidance on the most appropriate season, location and conditions in which LVE events will be held. The LVE Board desires to keep the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of potential team-members and participants at the forefront of any decision to hold Weekend Walks.

These COVID-19 Guidelines will apply to Loudoun Valley Emmaus event and the LVE Board will adhere to/follow the strictest level of policies or mandates that are in effect at the location where the LVE events will be undertaken, with the added **Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure** noted below. For purposes of clarity, if the Board has determined that an event will take place (e.g. a gathering) at local church and that church has COVID-19 rules that are stricter than those in effect at the county, state or federal level, individuals attending the event will adhere to/follow the COVID-19 policies in effect at that church. The same will hold true for the LVE Weekend Walks. If the COVID-19 policies in effect at the time of the Weekend Walk venue (for example, the 4-H Center) are stricter than those at the county, state or federal level, participants (which include, but are not limited to pilgrims, sponsors, outside support, prayer partners, team members, community members and sponsors) will adhere to/follow the venue policies.

Local, county, state and federal mandates may include, but not be limited to LVE events and participants being required to adhere to (1) limits on the number of participants (indoors/outdoors), (2) masking requirements, (3) requirements for dining, (4) requirements related to sanitization (frequent cleaning, hand sanitizer availability), (4)

social distancing, (4) proof of vaccination or negative testing, or other requirements/mandates.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the following are currently the known Symptoms of COVID-19 and any LVE community member planning on participating in any LVE functions, should they experience any of these symptoms should refrain from attending and consider being tested for COVID-19.

- * Fever or chills
- * Cough
- * Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- * Fatigue
- * Muscle or body aches
- * Headache
- * New loss of taste or smell
- * Sore throat
- * Congestion or runny nose
- * Nausea or vomiting
- * Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC will continue to update this list. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes are at higher risks of developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

According to the CDC, vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19, including variants. Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalizations and death, including against this variant. Fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections from this variant appear to be infectious for a shorter period. The CDC recommends that individuals get vaccinated, take boosters and wear masks indoors in public spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

Reference/Information on COVID-19, please visit the CDC website -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Virginia Department of Health - visit www.vdh.virginia.gov.

Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure

The following Walk Specific Policy and Procedure will be followed by all LVE Team, Support Team, Pilgrims, Sponsors, Prayer Partners and all others who will be attending a LVE Walk (or teaming prior to a Weekend Walk), regardless of where the Walks are conducted. If the Board has authorized a Weekend Walk, any policies and mandates at the facility (e.g. The 4-H Center) in place at the time of the Weekend Walk will be adhered to / followed by all participants. Additionally, any teaming will adhere to/follow the applicable policies of the location where teaming takes place. LVE Community Members are not required to take any testing prior to attending the Candle Light on Saturday evening and Closing on Sunday afternoon.

(1) All participants on the Weekend Walk will be required to:

- a. Present proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken sufficient time (check with your Testing Source) to have lab report or Photo of Rapid Test available on 1st day you are attending any event during the Weekend (e.g., pilgrim drop off, send off, prayer chapel, etc.). If you taking a Rapid Test at home, take a photo of the test results as close to the day you come to the Walk, show this photo as proof of your “negative” test for the presence of Covid-19 or its variants. Lab Testing is the most effective form of testing.
- b. Examples of sites that provide Testings are listed below. You can also get your testing at other professional sites such as your personal doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, etc. Call first since some of these sites will not give you a test unless you show symptoms of Covid-19 or its variants and find out their processing times to get you the results of you testing negative to the Covid Virus. Insure you schedule your test (especially if you take the CPR Test) in time to have test results are available on the 1st day you arrive at the Walk. Try to keep this period down to 3 to 4 days or find another source that can accommodate this schedule.

1. Minute Clinic for both CPR or Rapid Testing. Go to this site for free, scheduled testing. Link to site:

<https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

2. CDC’s National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) for “Free” Rapid Test Kits (choice of two sites):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

- c. Bring your validation that you tested negative to the on-site Covid-19 Team. LVE will NOT be collecting/storing any documentation, only a visual review of the documentation.
- (2) During the formation of the respective teams, the WLD will be required to inform potential team members of the negative test requirements as part of the team member's participation during the teaming process and Weekend Walk.
- (3) The LVE Board will provide this **Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure** to be communicated to the LVE community via Newsletter, email and posting on the LVE website.
- (4) The LVE Board will provide this **Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure** to be included as part of the teaming paperwork/documentation shared with all LVE team members.
- (5) The LVE Registrar will send notification to the community / sponsors / day servants / pilgrims at least six (6) weeks prior to any walk of LVE Test Requirement and a reminder email sent prior to the walk reminding participants of the weekend of the negative test result requirements.
- (6) The LVE Board will work with the Weekend Walk Outside Support Team to establish the process, including staffing requirements, for reviewing any evidence of a negative test as participants arrive at the Weekend Walk facility and prior to participants entering any indoor location
- (7) The LVE Board will utilize reasonable efforts to limit the number of checkpoints for weekend participants as to ensure consistency in documentation review.
- (8) If a participant shows up without evidence of a negative COVID-19 test (no more than one (1) day prior to attending any event), the participant will not be allowed to remain at the facility, or enter any indoor location. Participants may be allowed to leave and return with any documentation, or if they have not taken a COVID-19 test within one (1) day, they may elect to undergo a COVID-19 rapid test (e.g., at this time at pharmacies located in nearby Front Royal) and return with proof of negative test result.
- (9) During a Weekend Walk if any participant (Team, Pilgrim, etc.) shows signs of illness consistent with CDC symptoms of COVID-19*, the Outside Support Team (OST) will notify the Weekend Lay Director and a Board member of such illness. The individual exhibiting such symptoms, if not a pilgrim, may be asked to leave the weekend immediately (if able to drive), and required to undergo a COVID-19 test and show negative test result before being allowed to return to the Weekend Walk. If the individual is a pilgrim, the OST will also notify the pilgrim's sponsor and request that they come a pick-up the pilgrim from the Weekend Walk and undergo a COVID-19 test. Due to the nature of the walk, if a pilgrim is removed from the walk, they will not be allowed to return to the Walk.

- a. Results of COVID-19 test results should be shared with the OST leader (and the WLD and Board Rep) such that if a positive test result is provided the individuals in contact with that person can be notified of the test result and determine if they need to be tested or not based on the exposed individual's level of concern.
- b. The WLD and Board Representative can make a determination, based on the circumstances if the Weekend should, or should not be cancelled or proceed to conclusion.

(*) Applies during teaming process as well, individuals that are ill or showing signs of COVID-19 should notify the WLD and/or ALD and not attend a teaming session. If a team member tests positive for COVID-19 at any point during teaming, the team member should notify the WLD or ALD immediately so that the LVE Team can be informed and make an individual determination on testing.

- (10) LVE is not responsible for any participant costs associated with any COVID-19 test(s) required to participate in any LVE function, Weekend Walk, or other event where the LVE Board may determine such testing is required.
- (11) Upon completion of each Weekend Walk (but no later than two weeks following the Closing Ceremony of a specific Weekend Walk), the CLD will conduct a session with the WLD and Cadre of the Weekend Walk Team to evaluate the operation of the walk, evaluate the **Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure** and recommend any changes that the LVE Board may want to consider making to these procedures.
- (12) Changes will be made as required by the LVE Board and the **Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure** will be reviewed within thirty (30) days of the completion of (13) above, and also reviewed again at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of teaming for the following Weekend Walk and determine what, if any changes should be made by the LVE Board as related to the **Walk Specific COVID-19 Policy and Procedure**.