COVID-19
KEEPING YOU
SAFE ON YOUR
CHALLENGE

Document last updated: 19th July 2021
PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The safety of our customers, leaders, doctors, local ground teams, and the communities we interact with on our challenges, is of paramount importance to us. A large part of our safety system is ensuring that you, our customers, are fully informed and updated of the best practice guidelines and the measures that we have put in place to keep you Covid safe.

This impacts on everyone and requires the active engagement and participation of everyone on every challenge, so please read this document in full and please get in touch if you have any questions.

We will put in place control measures to protect our customers, leaders and staff by aiming to prevent anyone arriving on the challenge with Covid-19, by minimising the potential spread of the virus to others in the group or to the communities in which we operate, and by having clear guidelines for responding to anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms during a challenge.

We ask everyone booked on one of our challenges to check this document carefully in the weeks leading up to your challenge, as it will be updated as guidelines change, so that you understand the latest advice and measures in place.

BOOKING WITH CONFIDENCE

We understand that there may be a little uncertainty around booking in the current climate so we have created a Booking With Confidence policy to help you book your next Charity Challenge with absolute confidence.

Book with the knowledge that:

☑️ We are putting significant measures in place to make your challenge Covid Safe

☑️ We have flexible payment options*

☑️ We have ATOL and International Passenger Protection financial cover for your peace of mind*

☑️ We will offer you a number of options if we cannot operate your challenge due to Covid-19: postpone your challenge to a later departure, join any other challenge, transfer your place to another person, or receive a refund of monies paid for the challenge*

*Full info and T&C's on our Booking With Confidence policy
CLEAR & TRANSPARENT SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

The nature of the virus, and the way in which the UK responds with specific social distancing measures and official guidelines, means that our response will be thorough and fully informed by a number of domestic, international and global health authorities, but as it is constantly evolving and changing, so will our response.

Please rest assured that we will remain connected to best practice guidance and advice and adapt our own processes and procedures to match the latest advice.

Social distancing guidelines about what additional safety measures might be appropriate and when they will apply before, during and after your challenge will be made available to participants in the ‘Final Details’ document we send out about a month before departure for UK challenges (two months for international challenges).

Even after 19 July (Freedom Day), we will continue to recommend best practice measures such as the use of face masks in confined spaces, regular use of hand sanitizer, and social distancing where possible.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

It is part of our duty of care to keep up to date with all the latest information from a number of domestic, international and global health authorities.

- Public Health England (PHE)
- Department for Transport (DfT)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Mountain Training (UK)
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
- World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)
- European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC)
- UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWT)
VISIT BRITAIN "WE'RE GOOD TO GO"

We are proud to have acquired the UK Industry Standard mark, “We’re good to go” in partnership with the Tourist Organisations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This means that our business has followed government and industry Covid-19 guidelines, has a risk assessment in place and a process to maintain cleanliness and aid social distancing.

CHALLENGE SAFE KIT

We encourage everyone to bring face masks, and hand sanitiser on their challenge. We will ensure that we have plenty of Challenge Safe Kits available to reduce the risk of infection on your Charity Challenge.

This includes:

- Face masks
- Hand sanitiser
- Charity Challenge Buffs - Buffs are one of the most versatile items that you can carry on a challenge and can be worn in a variety of ways such as a face mask, balaclava, headband, sun guard, to name a few!

CHALLENGE SAFE

We have developed enhanced Covid-19 standard operating procedures and risk assessments to ensure the safety of our participants, leaders, doctors, local ground teams, and the communities we interact with on our challenges. Our standard operating procedure (SOP) outlines the guidelines that will be adhered to on all challenge events as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It forms part of Charity Challenge’s ‘Challenge Safe’ safety management system. A robust safety management system divides responsibility for safety between the provider, leaders and participants. Our SOPs are then used to help create specific risk assessments for each challenge event and each country.
COVID-19 INSURANCE COVER

Your safety is one of our main concerns at Charity Challenge, which is why ensuring you take out extensive travel insurance is an essential part of every booking.

We are therefore delighted to announce that our travel insurance partners at Campbell Irvine are shortly launching their new updated Campbell Irvine Direct travel insurance policy which not only includes medical emergency and repatriation cover due to Covid-19 whilst travelling overseas, but also includes pre-departure cancellation in the event that you or your insured travelling companion are diagnosed with Covid-19 before departure and instructed not to travel by your doctor.

In addition the policy also includes pre-departure cancellation cover if you or your insured travelling companion are directly exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with Coronavirus and through the governments Test and Trace programme you are instructed to quarantine prior to departure preventing you from travelling.

The policy also protects you if you are ordered to quarantine overseas as a result of being directly exposed to someone who is diagnosed with Covid-19 and you incur additional travel and accommodation costs as a result.

Please note the policy does not extend to include any cover if due to a second wave the government orders another lockdown or the FCO or destination country advises against travel to the destination. In addition, the cover will not apply if you elect to travel against FCO advice.

WORLD TRAVEL AND TOURISM COUNCIL "SAFE TRAVELS"

We are proud to share that we have also received the World Travel and Tourism Council’s (WTTC) “Safe Travel’s” stamp, which provides travellers with assurance that we have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols – so you can experience “safe travel”.
COVID-19 BEST PRACTICE TRAINING

Charity Challenge will provide mandatory online training for all leaders and suppliers to explain the contents of the enhanced Covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOP) and risk assessments.

Our leaders will all be carrying appropriate PPE to use when dealing with any first aid incidents and will have received training about the use of such equipment.

TRANSPORT

If your challenge itinerary includes transport, then we will work with the transport supplier to make sure that the correct measures are in place in line with the most up to date government advice.

All vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected immediately prior to participants boarding the vehicle.

All participants and leaders will be provided with hand sanitiser to use before boarding the vehicle, and face masks for use as per government advice.

Transport guidelines will be made available to participants in the ‘Final Details’ document.

EQUIPMENT

Charity Challenge has put in place a strict cleaning schedule to ensure that all equipment will be fully cleaned and disinfected prior to, and where appropriate, during your challenge. This includes the use of bikes, kayaks, buoyancy aids, helmets, paddles and group shelters.
ACCOMMODATION

If your challenge itinerary includes accommodation, then we will work with the accommodation supplier to make sure that the correct measures are in place in line with the most up to date government advice. This will include hand washing stations and cleaning schedules for bathrooms, among many other things.

For more information regarding the governments guidelines to accommodation suppliers please click here. Accommodation guidelines will be made available to participants in the ‘Final Details’ document.

REDUCED GROUP SIZE & STAGGERED STARTS

During the challenge we will be using a greater number of leaders to ensure that the group will be able to maintain social distancing whilst providing you with the same level of support. Leader ratio to be adjusted based upon government advice, the challenge environment, and group size.

On challenges with larger group sizes we may split the groups into smaller teams and ask people to choose a ‘walking speed’ group. This will enable us to separate out the group at registration and the start of the challenge and enable social distancing more easily.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Check this document carefully in the weeks leading up to your challenge, as it will be updated as guidelines change, so that you understand the latest advice and measures in place.
- If you think you may have Covid-19 symptoms and you are unsure what to do, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service.
- Help us by following all instructions given to you by your leaders, for your own safety and that of the team around you.
WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the Covid-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The Covid-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow)

HOW TO STOP COVID-19 SPREADING
WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

- If you think you may have Covid-19 symptoms and you are unsure what to do, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service
- Stay at home (self-isolate) – do not leave your home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self-isolate.
- Get a test – to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU LIVE IN AN AREA WITH LOCAL RESTRICTIONS/GUIDELINES

- We ask that everyone takes personal responsibility and follows the guidelines from their local area
- If you are unable to join your challenge, due to local guidelines, then we ask you to contact us ASAP; please email challenges@charitychallenge.com
- If you are not able to join a challenge we will do our best to move you to a later challenge date; there will be a fee and this will vary depending on what costs we have already incurred
COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ’S)

We understand that all the changes in the current environment can be extremely overwhelming and may leave you with many questions as we all adapt to the new way of being. To hopefully ease some of your concerns we have pulled together some FAQ's around Covid-19.

We hope the above information provides some support, but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

challenges@charitychallenge.com
+44 (0)20 8346 0500
Any more questions?

Contact us:
+44 (0)20 8346 0500
challenges@charitychallenge.com
www.charitychallenge.com

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