



## COVID Safety Protocols

The Ignatian Spirituality Project will resume offering overnight retreats beginning August 1, 2021.

Due to the unprecedented and widespread transmission of COVID-19, gatherings of any kind present a special risk for increasing the spread of the virus. To mitigate risk to its volunteers, participants and broader community, the Ignatian Spirituality Project is implementing the following protocols based on the Center for Disease Control recommendations, under the guidance of our COVID-19 Response Committee:

### ISP Vaccination Policy:

ISP strongly believes that "being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good." (USCCB)

- **Volunteers:** As official representatives of the Ignatian Spirituality Project charged with ensuring the reasonable safety of, and peace of mind for, our community and participants, we are requiring all ISP volunteers serving on overnight retreats to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. This policy is in force for facilitators, drivers, and any other volunteers having direct contact with participants.

ISP volunteers will not be asked to show proof of vaccination to the ISP Network or fellow team members in order to participate in programming. Rather, ISP volunteers are expected to be honest about their vaccination status and act accordingly.

- Volunteer team members who do not wish to be vaccinated will not be able to participate in a direct-service role with ISP participants until further notice.
- **Participants:** At this time, ISP is strongly encouraging, but not requiring, participants to be vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to participating in an ISP retreat.

Whether fully vaccinated or not, ISP volunteers, and especially participants who live in congregate settings, should be aware that participating in an ISP program or retreat always carries a degree of risk during a public pandemic and that ISP volunteers or staff will not be requiring volunteers or participants to show proof of vaccination status. These risks are acknowledged in signing the ISP Retreat Waiver.

Updated 8/6/21

### **Face Mask Policy:**

- *Fully vaccinated persons* should follow their city/state's current guidelines regarding mask use indoors.
- *Unvaccinated participants* are required to wear a mask in public, indoor spaces. Masks must cover the nose and mouth and should fit snugly against the sides of the face & under the chin.

Regardless of local guidelines or vaccination status, ISP teams may choose to make wearing masks a requirement of all ISP retreat attendees (volunteers and participants); this will be decided on a case by case basis at the local team level, in consultation with the ISP Network office.

Regardless of vaccination status or retreat center guidelines, all ISP volunteers and retreat participants are free to wear a mask at any time if it affords them some peace of mind and comfort.

### **Transportation & Driving:**

ISP team members may transport participants or other volunteer team members to or from the meeting location to the retreat center. All ISP drivers must be fully vaccinated. Volunteer drivers may require all passengers to wear masks while inside their car.

### **Social Distancing:**

An appropriate amount (min. of 3 ft+) of physical distance should be observed when possible during large and small group gatherings, during meals, and while socializing (and always in accord with specific retreat center policies). The ISP Network will not set rules around physical contact (hugs, handshakes, etc.), however, these may be determined by volunteer leaders on the local level as deemed appropriate and set forth at the beginning of the retreat/program.

### **Hand Washing:**

All ISP volunteers and participants agree to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand-sanitizer frequently throughout the day.

### **ISP Retreat Waiver:**

All those participating in in-person retreats or programs must complete the *ISP Retreat Waiver* confirming that they are participating at their own risk.

### **Summary**

The ISP Network recognizes that our ministry operates across many locations and contexts and that no protocol or policy will be able to cover all contingencies. Please contact Matt Meyers, Director of Programs, at [mmeyers@ispretreats.org](mailto:mmeyers@ispretreats.org) if you have questions or concerns about the information above. Thank you!