



David and Frances Brain
**CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Student Community Engagement Commitment & Safety Guidelines for COVID-19

This document contains guidelines to inform students what behaviors and actions need to be taken while participating in community engagement or volunteering activities during the 2021-2022 academic year. While many Brain Center events and programs will take place in a remote / virtual format, these guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of both student volunteers and organization staff members, and to promote a positive and open minded work environment in both remote/virtual and on-site community engagement experiences. The guidelines follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) and State of Ohio Department of Health recommendations and will continue to be updated as COVID-19 evolves.

Community Engagement Commitments during COVID-19

As a student volunteer, and a representative of the BW community, I understand that my actions and attitudes while volunteering affect the outcome of my experience for myself and the organization and community I serve. Before volunteering, I have acknowledged and agree to the following:

- I am a representative of BW, and my actions and attitudes reflect on the university community overall
- I want to volunteer from a genuine desire to help others and learn about the community
- I understand that nonprofit organizations may need to make changes and adapt to situations in their community, which may affect my volunteer assignment or responsibilities; I will take this opportunity to learn to be flexible and adaptable, and will keep an open mind to seek what lessons I can learn throughout the experience
- I will be consistent, honest, and direct in communicating with the organization, my faculty member (when course-based) and fellow volunteers
- I will approach any volunteer experience as an opportunity to learn from the expertise and experience of nonprofit staff and community members; entering the space with cultural humility and understanding that everyone I interact with has something to teach me
- I will encounter people who have life experiences, perspectives, and views different from my own, and I can learn from this diversity; I will be open-minded and respectful when interacting with and listening to people who are different from me
- I will do my best to communicate the limits of my time, experience, or skill to the organization and avoid committing myself to responsibilities I may not be able to successfully fulfill

I also understand that we are currently living in a pandemic, and **MUST** follow all designated policies and procedures to ensure the safety of myself and others from COVID-19.



If volunteering in a remote / virtual environment:

- I **WILL** ensure I have the technology needed to fulfill the expectations of my volunteer position and will communicate any concerns I have related to this to my site supervisor or faculty member (when applicable)
- I **WILL** follow all guidelines for safety and protection of personal information required by my community partner related to the specific platform that this virtual volunteering will utilize
- I **WILL** share any concerns I have related to the scope of the project, volunteer expectations, adequate training / orientation or other issues of safety or well-being to my faculty member (when applicable) or directly to Brain Center staff if any concerns or issues arise at any point in the semester

If I choose to volunteer in person with an off-campus nonprofit organization, I will take the following precautions:

- I **WILL** follow all CDC, local and university safety protocols **AND** the specific safety protocols of the organization with which I am serving. If I am unaware of what the safety protocols are for my site organization I will take the initiative to ask my site supervisor.
- I **WILL NOT** attempt to volunteer if I have **any** of the symptoms identified by the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health. (Symptoms found [here](#)).
- I **WILL NOT** volunteer if I live with or am in frequent contact with people in higher-risk categories for the virus.
- I **WILL** ask about any risk that may be associated with the task. I **WILL NOT** take part if I feel uncomfortable with the risk level.
- I **WILL** follow the CDC recommended precautions, which are as follows:
 - Clean and wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after volunteering (or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when unable to wash hands).
 - Avoid close contact with others, and maintain a social distance of six (6) feet.
 - Cover nose and mouth with a face covering when around others.
 - Cover nose and mouth with a tissue or inside of the elbow when coughing or sneezing, then clean hands by washing or using hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching my eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- I **WILL** learn about the organization's safety precautions before volunteering and ask any clarifying questions I may have.
I **WILL** use my own personal protective equipment or personal protective equipment that the organization offers me while I volunteer.
- If up to fourteen (14) days after volunteering I experience any symptoms or test positive, I **WILL** notify the organization.