

DEAC Covid-Related Travel Health and Safety Protocol (On-Site Evaluations)

DEAC's paramount concern during the ongoing global pandemic is the health and safety of our evaluators, our institutional partners, and our staff. As we return to in person on-site evaluations, DEAC will continue to monitor travel guidance from credible sources, such as the CDC and World Health Organization. DEAC evaluators are asked to participate in on-site evaluations on a voluntary basis. We have developed the following Covid-Related Travel Health and Safety Protocols for our on-site evaluations, which will apply to our volunteer evaluators, as well as our staff members.

Travel For On-site Evaluations During the Pandemic

DEAC advises evaluators to use their judgement in determining what method of travel to employ when attending an on-site evaluation. Evaluators must follow the local, state, and federal guidelines on safe travel requirements. Currently, federal regulations require the wearing of masks and face coverings during all air travel and on public transit, regardless of vaccination status.

DEAC also expects evaluators to comply with state and municipal policies while serving on the evaluation team, as well as the policies and requirements of the institutions. This may mean limits on indoor dining, or requirements to wear masks in indoor spaces, such as the hotel lobby. Before traveling, evaluators should review public health authority recommendations and guidelines for the place they are visiting (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>).

Institutions should provide DEAC with their Covid related requirements and notify DEAC of any major changes to policy implemented by state or local government, such as an issue of a shelter in place order.

Vaccination Status

In accordance with CDC guidance and in support of our ongoing efforts to protect the health and safety of our volunteers, institutional partners and staff, DEAC will require all on-site evaluation team members to be fully vaccinated for Covid-19. Each of DEAC's on-site participants will be required to provide written attestation of their fully vaccinated status prior to participating in an on-site visit. At this time DEAC is not allowing unvaccinated individuals to participate in on-site evaluations.

Masks and Face-Coverings

Regardless of the jurisdictional mandates, DEAC evaluators and institutional staff are required to wear masks or face-coverings throughout the entirety of the on-site evaluation, except while eating or drinking. Masks or face coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth.

Social Distancing and Hygiene

DEAC, consistent with CDC guidelines, recommends participants practice hand hygiene and "social distancing". When hosting the on-site evaluation team, institutions must provide meeting areas and interview rooms with adequate space for social distancing.

Duty to Self-Monitor

Even though they have been fully vaccinated, evaluation team members and institutional staff have a duty to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (symptoms typically include fever, cough, and shortness of breath) and, to contact DEAC if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days after participating or volunteering with DEAC.

Evaluators who 1) demonstrate significant symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of the evaluation, 2) believe that they may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within 14 days of the evaluation, or 3) have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are not yet cleared as non-contagious by state or local public health authorities or the health care team responsible for their treatment **MAY NOT** attend the on-site evaluation and **must inform DEAC immediately**

Institutions must inform DEAC **IMMEDIATELY** if a member of their staff tests positive for or demonstrates significant symptoms of COVID-19 ahead of, or within two weeks after, the on-site evaluation. An outbreak at the site of the evaluation within 14 days of the evaluation will result in a cancellation of the on-site evaluation. DEAC will coordinate with the institution to reschedule or switch to a virtual evaluation, with the expectation that a follow up on-site evaluation will take place within twelve months.

Possible Visit Cancellation

DEAC intends to conduct on-site evaluations throughout the fall of 2021. However, DEAC continues to monitor travel guidelines issued by the CDC and reserves the right to cancel an on-site evaluation at any time. In the event of a cancelled on-site evaluation, evaluators who have already purchased travel arrangements and are unable to receive a refund may request reimbursement from DEAC by submitting an Expense Report with attached receipts. DEAC will either reschedule the on-site evaluation for a later date, or coordinate with the institution to switch to a virtual evaluation, with the expectation that a follow up on-site evaluation will take place within twelve months. On-site visit fees paid by the institution are non-refundable.

COVID-19 Liability Release Waiver

All evaluators participating in an on-site evaluation are required to sign a Covid 19 vaccination attestation and liability waiver ahead of the on-site evaluation. A copy of the waiver shall be distributed to evaluators via DocuSign