

August 12, 2020

Arrive Ministries Volunteer Recommendations

Thank you for caring for our refugee and immigrant neighbors. Due to COVID-19 social distancing measures, we recognize that volunteering may continue to look different. The safety of our clients, volunteers, and staff remains a high priority.

Please ensure you are familiar with the latest guidance from the CDC and from Gov. Walz for Minnesota, and encourage your refugee-background friends to do the same. Current measures in place for Stay-Safe-MN can be found at <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-mn.jsp>

In addition to state guidelines, Arrive Ministries recommends abiding by the following precautions whenever possible:

- Limit the number of people meeting indoors
- Limit your time together to about one hour
- Call before you visit to ensure everyone is healthy
- Wear a mask when visiting or transporting your refugee-background friends
- Spend time outside

We have observed that in-person meetings are oftentimes more meaningful than virtual meetings. However, please remember that the people we serve may be members of vulnerable populations. Additionally, many are from cultures that highly value hospitality, and for that reason, they may feel uncomfortable turning you away from their home. With that in mind, please do what is best for the family you are working with and be sure to ask them frequently how and if they want to meet. Here are some suggestions on how to offer a pressure-free invitation.

<https://arriveministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Pressure-Free-Invitation.pdf>

Regardless of how you are connecting, we hope that you are! Showing your concern, offering support, and just being a friend during this season is very significant. Visit our COVID-19 resource page for ideas on how to engage.

<https://arriveministries.org/covid-19/>

In the event that you test positive for COVID-19, and have seen your refugee-background friends within the contact-tracing window determined by your medical provider, we ask that you inform them. Please contact us if you want help communicating or need interpretation.

Arrive Ministries staff will convey these same recommendations and expectations to our refugee and immigrant friends when making new volunteer connections.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we love our refugee and immigrant neighbors.

