**2021 COVID Assurance Policy**

Dear Potential Team Leader,

We know that all of us as believers are facing a few realities we need to reconcile. First, *COVID is a real threat that affects all of us*, and something we all need to take seriously and plan for. We want nothing more than to see teams out in the field, but the safety of our teams (and the communities and churches we are serving) must come first.

Second, *the need for ministry across our locations has never been greater*.

Third, *we know many teams and churches feel the call to get back out serving again*. It’s a biblical mandate, and it doesn’t stop because of COVID.

We will not be hosting any teams until March 2021 at the earliest, but *we do expect we’ll see a return to a “new normal” in 2021 of teams serving in the field*.

If you would like to take the steps to get a team together to go, but you have the looming “what if” question of COVID, you’re not alone. In this unique circumstance, we have chosen to offer a COVID refund policy, applicable only to teams signing up for a 2021 trip, in the event that the state of COVID makes it inadvisable for you to go on your 2021 trip.

*COVID Refund Details*

There are two criteria that would trigger a refund from Thirst Missions to your church/team.

1. There is no widely available and affordable vaccine yet. (Available meaning you can get it within a two-hour drive and affordable meaning $200 or less.)
2. COVID is making travel difficult or inadvisable to your location. Examples include:
	1. a COVID-related travel ban or advisory in the area you are going to serve (Appalachia, Alaska, Belize, or Puerto Rico).
	2. Your home airport is closed and/or quarantine is required after you arrive back home. This is not what we would consider viable travel.

The Thirst Missions payment schedule has the registration payment, then payments of 10 percent, 30 percent, and a final payment of 60 percent two months before your trip. The decision about a refund would be made by Thirst Missions 10 weeks (2.5 months) before travel, and before you’ve made that final 60% payment.

The refund would be 95% of what has been paid in, with the 5% going to defray some of our administration costs for trip planning and preparation.

This policy was designed with the specific purpose of providing the assurance necessary for teams to move forward in their missions trip planning and preparation for the 2021 season. As such, this amended refund policy will only apply for trips scheduled for this period.

Additionally, this policy will not apply to trips paid for with credits from previously scheduled trips. In the event that a trip is partially paid for by credit, only the amount paid for with non-credit funds is eligible for refund.

***If you have any questions regarding this policy amendment, or would like to learn more about what a trip with Thirst Missions could look like for your church in 2021, please do not hesitate to contact us at 651.464.2212.***