

## 2024 Medical Clinic Program Information Guide

This document provides a brief overview what to expect when serving at the medical clinics in Guatemala. Please also read the **Volunteer FAQs** prior to completing your application.

Faith In Practice may deem it necessary to adjust the guidelines as needed during the year. Thank you for your flexibility, understanding, and willingness to work within these parameters.

### Vaccination Requirement

Effective January 1, 2024 Faith In Practice will no longer require volunteers to submit proof of vaccination for COVID-19. COVID Vaccination is required through 2023.

### Staying Healthy

Faith In Practice strongly encourages all volunteers to be current with the vaccination schedule outlined by the CDC, including routine flu and pneumonia vaccines. Please refer to the Center for Disease Control for traveling to Guatemala at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/guatemala>. The CDC has extensive and valuable information related to travel in Guatemala, and Faith In Practice encourages all volunteers to review this site. Faith In Practice also urges all volunteers to consult with their personal physicians for specific, individual advice regarding medical precautions.

Please review the **Illness During Mission Protocol (IDMP)** for additional information that outlines expectations and steps to be taken when a communicable illness may be present among the FIP staff, US volunteers, or Guatemalan volunteers during a medical mission

### Recruiting

In 2024 your team can expect to see roughly 1,200 patients during the mission week. The specific number of patients for each clinic will vary from day to day and team to team.

Team size: 20 - 32 U.S. volunteers. The max team size should not exceed 32 US volunteers. Please try to recruit bilingual medical providers.

Roles to recruit for Medical Clinic Teams:

***Please plan to recruit at least 1 family practice physician/NP to support the general clinic and pediatric clinic as needed depending on the patient numbers.***

- General or family practice physicians or nurse practitioners: 3
- Pediatric or family practice physicians or nurse practitioners: 1-2
- GYN physicians: 1-2
- Orthopedic Specialist: 1 (*necessary to support appropriate orthopedic referrals*)
- Imaging specialist: 1 (This can include a physician who is trained on an ultrasound machine, sonographer, radiologist, etc. We have found that this role has been critical and beneficial in improving our surgical referrals.)
- Laboratory: 1-2
- Pharmacy: 3-4 (at least one must be a licensed pharmacist)
- Translators or Triage: 5-7 (as needed, based on providers Spanish proficiency)
- Clergy: 1
- Blogger/Photographer: 1

- Mobility Clinics: In 2024 all medical clinic teams will have a mobility clinic component and all team leaders should plan to recruit the following roles for the mobility clinic.
  - 2 PTs/OTs
  - 1 Medical Provider (either MD or NP)
  - 2-3 Assemblers
  - 0-3 interpreters, based on the Spanish proficiency of the PTs/OTs and medical provider.

#### *Other Specialties or Possible Clinics*

- Women's Health Clinic (VIA/Cryo): All 2024 medical clinic teams will have a VIA/CRYO component.
- Audiology Clinic: If team size permits and if you have brought Audiology before you can recruit 1-2 audiologists.

#### Roles to NOT recruit:

Dental Providers. We will not have a dental component on our Medical Clinic teams in 2024. We will update our team leaders if/when we are able to add dental back to medical clinic teams.

Faith In Practice Staff who will accompany the team includes the director, coordinator, referrals coordinator and other support staff as needed.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Face masks are required to be worn at the clinic site. Most up-to-date protocols will be provided to you and the team during your team orientation in Guatemala. All Faith In Practice Volunteers will have access to additional PPE at the clinic site including the following items:

- N95 masks
- Ear-loop masks
- Gowns
- Gloves
- Face shields

### **Supplies and Medications**

Faith In Practice will provide team leaders and volunteers with the 2024 Medication and Supply list, which includes the pharmacy formulary, in September/October 2023. We strongly encourage your physicians and pharmacy team review the list prior to traveling to Guatemala to familiarize themselves with what will be available during the mission trip.

### **Flights and Travel Requirements**

A visa is not required for U.S. citizens entering Guatemala. A valid passport that will expire no less than 6 months from the date of entry is still strongly recommended. If your passport is from a different country, please check with your state department on requirements to enter Guatemala.

We ask volunteers to not book flights until they are officially added to the team in the database and receive a confirmation email stating that they have been added to the team.

**It is very important for team members to make every effort to arrive to Guatemala on the team flight or on a flight that is within the same timeframe.** Faith In Practice is not able to support multiple pick-ups from the airport or arrivals prior to the mission week.

When leaving Guatemala, team members should depart on flights within the same timeframe and ride the team bus to the airport. In the event that a volunteer is unable to depart with the team on the departure date due to geographical limitations or limited flight options, Faith In Practice can set up individual transportation for a team member for an additional fee of \$25.

Volunteers extending their stay in Guatemala will be required to make their own proper accommodations. Faith In Practice is not responsible for arranging accommodations or financially contributing to arrangements outside of the official team dates.

### **Hotel/Lodging**

There will be double occupancy rooming in 2024. Each U.S. volunteer can expect to have a roommate during the mission week.

### **Ground Transportation**

We continue to work with many of the same providers and some new providers. Public Health regulations regarding public transportation, including shuttle buses, will be occupied at full capacity. **All team members must be on team transportation.**

**We will strive to keep these Information Sheets updated.**

*Please note that the situation remains fluid and flexibility is important.*

*In any situation where Faith In Practice and Guatemalan law and regulation are in conflict, Guatemalan law and regulation will supersede.*

*For more detailed information about our 2024 teams—and answers to the most frequently asked questions from your team members—please refer to the **Volunteer FAQs**.*

*Pictures from teams serving in the Medical Clinics*

