

Colleagues,

As each day brings more and more new reports of the spread and impact of the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), we want to keep you informed about the actions we are taking in response to the situation. We, like you, are deeply committed to Habitat's mission while taking reasonable measures to protect our staff, volunteers and the people we serve while ensuring operational continuity during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Habitat for Humanity International is taking a proactive stance on the COVID-19 outbreak. To that end, we have established an internal COVID-19 Task Force to inform and improve our preparedness and response to this ongoing global health emergency. Senior Vice President of Legal and General Counsel Hilary Harp serves as the sponsor of the Task Force.

Informed by their review and recommendations, Habitat for Humanity International is taking several new steps in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. These steps are driven by our continued priority to protect the safety of our staff, volunteers and the people we serve.

- **Volunteer travel:** Effective today, HFHI is expanding our suspension of builds involving volunteer travel. Previously we had suspended international volunteer travel for Global Village builds through at least May 2. Today, that suspension is expanded to volunteer builds requiring domestic travel, including, but not limited to, **Collegiate Challenge, RV Care-A-Vanners and Habitat and Thrivent Worldwide.**
  - This suspension is currently in place for builds scheduled to begin between March 13 and May 2. We will continue to monitor the situation and may extend cancellations after May 2.
  - Volunteers who have already started their builds prior to March 13 are permitted to complete these builds.
  - Habitat for Humanity International is contacting volunteers affected by this decision directly.
- **Events and builds:** Habitat for Humanity International is not currently advising affiliates and national organizations to suspend any of their local builds and other events.
  - We recommend Habitat organizations carefully consider whether events, including local home builds, present risks based on the on-the-ground COVID-19 situation in your community. Follow guidance from local public health authorities.
  - We have created guidance for Habitat organizations to share with volunteers to help maximize safety on the build site. This guidance is [available on MyHabitat](#).
- **Official travel restrictions:** Habitat for Humanity International previously implemented an ongoing restriction for non-business critical international travel for HFHI staff. Today, that restriction expands to all travel (domestic and international). These restrictions will be in place until further notice and will be reviewed and updated by the COVID-19 Task Force and the SMG on a rolling 14-day schedule until the global health risks associated with COVID-19 subside.
  - We encourage our affiliate, SSO and NO partners to consider HFHI's action while considering what travel measures are appropriate for your organizations. Consider whether delay or alternative options (such as virtual meetings) are preferable.
- **AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon:** The Volunteer and Institutional Engagement team, in consultation with the host affiliates, has decided to cancel the 2020 Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon events in Milwaukee and Seattle. We will make a decision about the scheduled event in Bend, Oregon, at a later date.

Further information about COVID-19 and the measures Habitat for Humanity has taken is available on [MyHabitat](#).

We recognize these measures are unprecedented and may be disruptive to your work. Further, the unpredictable nature of the outbreak requires that we constantly monitor and update our guidance to respond to the rapidly developing situation. We are closely aligning our activities with others in our sector as well as in government and in the private sector.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we navigate this public health crisis together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Reckford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Reckford  
CEO, Habitat for Humanity International