

# Bridges to Community

## 2022 Virtual Trips Public Health



*Bridges to Community's mission is to build a more just and sustainable world through service-learning and community development by engaging participants to work in developing countries - building community and changing lives.*

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## Trip Components

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### Guided Activities and Discussions

The 5-session itinerary includes guided conversation and activities about the Covid Pandemic in the Dominican Republic. Each session and activity is designed to provide in-depth information and context around government policies, the vaccine rollout, statistics, and the impact of the pandemic, as well as to share the history and context of BTC public health programming in the DR.

### Expert and Community Interviews

Participants will have the opportunity to hear from community members and health professionals through pre-recorded interviews and other materials. One session also includes a live Q&A with a New York ER doctor who has worked extensively with BTC public health programming in the DR and Nicaragua.

### Virtual Tours

Participants will virtually tour the current spaces in which community members receive healthcare in la Guama to see the present-day conditions and to gain perspective about the resources and challenges of the national healthcare system.

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## Trip Structure

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### Sessions

Each virtual trip is composed of 5 45-minute sessions. Most trips run Monday through Friday, but a different schedule can be accommodated, time allowing.

- 1 introduction session
- 2-3 program/project content sessions
- 1 concluding session

### Considerations

- Each trip is facilitated live in the Dominican Republic from urban and rural locations. Please be flexible with occasional internet lags or delays.
- All content listed above is subject to change without notice but will be consistent with the theme and message of the session.

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## Sample Trip Itinerary

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### **Session 1: Orientation and BTC Public Health Programs**

- Introduction and icebreaker between facilitator and group
- Presentation of BTC history, mission, programs, and projects
- Focus and projects of BTC and PH in Nica and DR
- Introduce pandemic effects in the DR

### **Session 2: National Health System of the DR**

- Basics of the Dominican health system and its similarities and differences to the U.S.
- Video tour of the current health facilities in La Guama community
- Interviews and quotes from community members regarding the state of healthcare services
- Ongoing vaccine rollout and government plan for pandemic containment

### **Session 3: Anthropological Look at Health in the DR**

- Interview with Dr. Mike Lahn, Emergency Physician in New York
- Discuss health risks associated with Dominican genetic and hereditary disposition both with and without Covid-19
- Discuss cultural and social norms and pandemic protocol acceptance from Dominicans in-country and abroad

### **Session 4: The Economy and the Pandemic**

- Review statistics of Dominican employment, education, immigration, and lifestyle
- Effects of the pandemic on daily life, and where the DR is 18 months later
- Study decisions made regarding vaccine rollout and other pandemic protocols through the lens of a touristic country dependent on travel

### **Session 5: Agents of Change**

- Reflect on the program and experience and identify key takeaways.
  - Discuss as a group how to apply what was learned and how it can contribute in your own communities and abroad.
  - Create an action plan of your next steps to continue a positive contribution to our communities, society, and humanity.
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