

Trip Planning Guidance

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
New Hampshire Department of Education
March 10, 2020

Everyone should monitor the [CDC's Travel Health Notices](#) and avoid travel to any country with a level 3 travel notice. As a general guideline, we also recommend schools consider postponing travel to Level 2 Travel Health Notice countries (currently only Japan), and other countries with rapidly increasing case counts and evidence of more sustained or widespread community transmission, which includes a number of countries such as France, Germany, Spain, etc.

There are also locations in the United States with higher levels of COVID-19 community transmission (e.g. King and Snohomish Counties in Washington State, Santa Clara County in California, Westchester County in New York), and the number of cases in the United States overall continue to increase.

Because of the rapidly changing global epidemic, it is difficult to provide exact guidance, but we recommend that any school closely scrutinize the purpose and destination of any planned travel and consider postponing any out-of-state travel for the time-being.

Additionally, because of travel restrictions being put in place by other countries, anybody who does travel internationally risks difficulty returning and could potentially face quarantine in another country (e.g. Italy) and/or quarantine upon returning to New Hampshire based on progression of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

Finally, emerging data from China show that people with medical conditions and those older than 60 years are at increased risk of serious health complications and even dying if they become ill with COVID-19. Older adults and those with other medical conditions should talk with their healthcare providers before any domestic or international travel and consider postponing travel to minimize their risk from COVID-19.

We suggest that school travel planners closely review the COVID-19 epidemiology of countries included in travel itineraries before deciding on any travel. More information can be found on the following websites:

- [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Mapping](#)
- [World Health Organization Travel Advice](#)
- [CDC U.S. Update](#)
- [CDC Traveler Advice](#)

Below is a list of additional considerations for you to weigh in evaluating travel plans:

Location and Itinerary

- What is the level of [travel alert](#) identified by the CDC?
- Will the travel itinerary require travel through areas with heightened risk by CDC?
- Will the travel require transfer or connection through a hub that is likely to include direct transfer of others traveling from areas with heightened risk by CDC?

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Mode of Transportation to/from Destination

- Will transportation use public or commercial transportation (e.g., airlines, public bus/train, etc.)?
- Will transportation be on private bus, limiting the groups exposure to individuals outside of the group traveling?

Mode of Transportation at Destination

- Will transportation use public or commercial transportation (e.g., airlines, public bus/train, etc.)?
- Will transportation be on private bus, limiting the groups exposure to individuals outside of the group traveling?

Activities Planned at Destination

- Will activities include public or commercial venues and what is the size of such public gatherings (e.g., Major League Baseball game with 20,000 participants versus a museum tour with far fewer interactions beyond the group traveling)?
- Will activities involve passive activities that can support social-distancing or limited social-distancing or will there be direct engagement and contact with others outside of the group traveling?

Vulnerability of Students and Staff Participating

- Will the trip include travelers with specific health risks, such as compromised immune systems, respiratory problems, heart problems, that may be more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19?

Risk Tolerance of Your Community

- How prepared is your community to tolerate possible risk associated with developments that may take place during the trip?
- What options exists to reschedule the trip or cancel altogether, including the financial implications of such determinations?