

# DURING COVID-19: OVERNIGHT TRIPS RECOMMENDATIONS

During this global health crisis, our maintaining safety as we go out in the field requires even more care and attention. This guide supports the approval process and policies related to overnight trips in the Sam Fox School. **All overnight trips must be approved by your chair and director.**

## DO NO HARM; MINIMIZE RISKS

*We want to do no harm and minimize risks in the places we visit.*

### Protecting the Community

A top priority in planning is ensuring the safety and well-being of community members and the general public, who may be more vulnerable than students. Is it possible to stay at a safe distance? What can you do to minimize contact between yourself and others? COVID-19 may be impacting the community you are visiting differently than your own. While you may be vaccinated and low-risk, that may not be true for others. Educate yourself about the structural inequalities and context.

### Do You Need to Go?

Reflect on the purpose of your field work. There is a value in seeing a place first-hand and interacting with people. Are there suitable alternatives that are lower risk?

### Flexibility and Accommodation

At this time, flexibility for students is recommended, particularly to accommodate students who are ill or quarantined. Field trips and travel may only be required with the permission of your director.

### Communicate Clearly

Communicate the requirements and expectations to all involved in advance, including students, community partners, and others involved. Clarify the current guidelines, and specify if masking and distancing are expected.

## FOLLOWING GUIDELINES

*All WashU community members must follow the University and local guidelines for each municipality and/or site.*

Check local public health requirements such as gathering size and travel warnings.

### Note the University's Alert Level

Check WashU Together. If the University moves to a Red Alert, cancel your trip.

### Plan ahead to limit risk

- Whenever possible, plan to meet outdoors in a location where social distancing is possible.
- Communicate expectations around masking and distancing with guests and partners in advance.

### Consider additional protection, especially indoors.

- Follow University guidance for masking, and wear masks with people while indoors and in crowded places.
- Maintaining distance from other people.
- Regularly sanitize or wash your hands.
- Have all field trip participants complete and pass the COVID-19 self-screening.

Additional guidelines on [WashU Together](#).

## REQUIRING FIELD TRIPS

We recommend flexibility around field trips and travel to accommodate students who may be ill, quarantined, or have concerns for personal health or safety. Field trips and travel may only be required for a course with the permission of the director.

## GET READY TO GO

*Being fully prepared for a field trip will make everything run more smoothly.*

### Bring Supplies

Be sure to bring along additional supplies such as masks and hand sanitizer.

### Have a Record of Who's There

Keep accurate records about who participates in field trips for the purpose of contact tracing.

## INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE

### Be Respectful of Others Preferences

If you are asked to comply with specific procedures by a community member beyond what you would not normally do, such as wearing a mask outdoors, be respectful of their tolerance for risk.

### Be Ready to Set Boundaries

As you interact with people in public, be prepared to ask for the necessary health boundaries. Practice saying "Could you stay six feet back from me please? I want to be sure to keep us both healthy." or "Would you mind putting on your mask?"

### Remove Yourself as Needed

If you are in a situation that feels unsafe or unhealthy, exit immediately and get to somewhere that you feel more comfortable. Do not engage in confrontations about mask usage, distance, or other health precautions; simply leave if you feel that anyone's health or safety is at risk.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Consultations

Contact the Office for Socially Engaged Practice or the Gephardt Institute for Civic & Community Engagement ([gephardt.institute.wustl.edu](http://gephardt.institute.wustl.edu)) for consultation about your particular class.

### Other Blue Pages

- [Site Visits: In The Field](#). Going out in the world to see the site and location where you want to work is an essential part of understanding a project for a course. Use this guide to help consider the ethics, risks, and opportunities of heading off-campus for class.
- [Representing People: Photography & Visuals](#). Representation of people and places is powerful. The use of photography, drawings, and words communicates experiences, opinions, perspectives, and judgments about the people and places. Consider these guidelines for ethical representation.
- [Entering & Exiting Communities](#). This guide goes more in-depth on entering and exiting when working with a partner or a community. Think through the before, during, and after to create a safe and reciprocal experience for communities.