

## Considerations for Field Trips during an Epidemic or Pandemic

If Wisconsin, the United States, or globally an outbreak of a communicable disease is occurring, school districts will need to make decisions regarding planned or potential field trips. A school district's decision to continue with plans for or cancel a field trip is a local decision. School districts should consult with the local health department regarding disease activity and the prudence in continuing the planned field trip.

Considerations include:

- What is the disease activity within your school district as indicated by number of students absent with (respiratory) symptoms and suspected cases?
- What is the disease activity at the location of the field trip?
- Has any agency (Centers for Disease Control, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Department of Safety and Security) issued a travel alert?
- Is the field trip an outdoor or indoor activity?
- To what extent does it involve close proximity to or actual contact with other students and community members?
- Do field trip participants have any conditions that place them at particular or increased risk for illness or disease transmission?

School districts may reference [DPI's Meeting Student Health Needs While on Field Trips](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Meeting_Student_Health_Needs_While_on_Field_Trips_Tool_Kit.pdf) ([https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Meeting\\_Student\\_Health\\_Needs\\_While\\_on\\_Field\\_Trips\\_Tool\\_Kit.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Meeting_Student_Health_Needs_While_on_Field_Trips_Tool_Kit.pdf)) for further general considerations in field trip planning.