

COVID-19 Conversation Guide for 2022 Troop Travel

When evaluating opportunities for troop trips this coming Spring and Summer 2022, we recommend using this helpful tool to guide conversations and document plans so everyone stays safe and healthy.

1. COVID-19 incidence rates and levels:

<input type="checkbox"/> Have you checked the COVID-19 rate in your local area, AND in the travel destination? Is it high, medium, or low? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CDC has helpful COVID-19 rate data. ▪ For international travel, GSUSA has always, and continues to follow the US Department of State guidance. Where the Travel Advisory is “Level 4: Do Not Travel”, Girl Scouts do not travel to that location. 	
<i>STOP: If the COVID-19 level is high at either location, consider rescheduling the trip. If the US Department of State has a “Level 4” Travel Advisory in place, Girl Scouts do not travel to that location.</i>	

2. COVID-19 related requirements for vaccination or testing in the destination:

<input type="checkbox"/> Are vaccines, testing, masking or other COVID-19 mitigation measures required at the location? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For domestic trips, check this AARP Coronavirus Restrictions list by state. ○ For international trips, check the US State Department Travel Advisories, or - for quick reference - this worldwide list of restrictions from the New York Times. ○ Consider not only the country or state regulations, but also local vaccine or testing rules for businesses you may want to visit (i.e. restaurants, events). ○ Note: the CDC recommends full vaccination for all travelers. Per CDC guidelines, in the event of a COVID-19 exposure, participants who are up to date on vaccines, or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days, will be able to continue with a program (masked and taking precautions); however, those who are not fully up to date on vaccinations or recently recovered must move to quarantine. These guidelines may differ on international trips – check local guidelines. <input type="checkbox"/> For international trips, what is the plan for testing required to return to the US? How will tests be obtained and who will cover this cost?	
<i>STOP: If a troop cannot comply with all COVID-19 regulations at the destination, or as set by GSSEF, consider rescheduling the trip.</i>	

3. Financial considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/> What is the deadline for final payments to be made, and have you worked with vendors to push payment deadlines as far out as possible?	
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the cancellation policy of the hotel/accommodation? Best to find 24/hour cancellation policy locations, when possible.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the airline offering full refunds or just changeable tickets? Can the troop afford to purchase refundable tickets?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do all travelers understand the financial implications if the entire trip is postponed or cancelled at the last minute, or if an individual participant(s) must cancel at the last minute? Exactly how much money would each person lose?	
<input type="checkbox"/> If a participant must leave the trip early due to an exposure and necessary quarantine, will any of the activities be refundable? Has this been communicated to parent/guardians?	
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the plan for accommodations/hotel if any members of the group have to isolate for illness or quarantine during the trip, or after the planned last day of the trip? How will this be paid for, if needed? (see #5 for more information).	

STOP: If a troop is not able to create a viable and realistic plan to limit financial risks, consider rescheduling the trip.

4. Activity considerations and trip logistics:

<input type="checkbox"/> Is the trip primarily outdoor or indoor?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is it possible to socially-distance from those outside the group, or will the group be visiting mostly crowded, indoor locations?	
<input type="checkbox"/> What are the sleeping, transportation, and eating arrangements?	

STOP: If a trip does not meet GSSEF requirements for these areas, consider rescheduling the trip.

5. Illness, exposure, and quarantine considerations:

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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is the immediate plan if a member of the trip exhibits COVID-19 symptoms? Will that person be immediately tested? Have parent/guardians given permission for this, and do trip leaders have tests on hand? Who covers the cost of testing and costs related to cancelations?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is the next step for any individual who tests positive for COVID-19? (Note current CDC guidelines. As of 2.25.22, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not travel for a minimum of 10 days. These guidelines may differ on international trips – check local guidelines.) Which adult(s) on the trip will supervise any participant who must be isolated for a positive case, and at what point (24/48 hrs?) must parents/guardians arrive on-site to take custody of their children? Based upon the destination, is this a realistic expectation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is the next step for individuals who are exposed to COVID-19? (Note current CDC guidelines. As of 2.25.22, exposed individuals who are vaccinated and boosted OR have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not have to quarantine. They should mask for 5 days and take precautions for 10 days. However, unvaccinated individuals who have not recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days must isolate for 5 days and not travel for 10. These guidelines may differ on international trips – check local guidelines.) Which adult(s) on the trip will supervise any participant who must be isolated for exposure, and at what point must parent/guardians arrive on-site to take custody of their children? Based upon the destination, is this a realistic expectation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Do all participants and parent/guardians understand and agree with the above plans? Have parent/guardians been advised that they must be contactable during the entire trip and willing to finance their own travel to pick up their child? If trip is international, does a parent/guardian of each child have an up-to-date passport?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is the plan if adult chaperones fall ill?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Will the trip have additional adults beyond ratio-requirements? (<i>Strongly recommended</i>)○ Will all adult chaperones be fully up to date on vaccines? (<i>Strongly recommended. Not only does this decrease risk of illness, but vaccinated and boosted chaperones MAY be able to continue with the program if exposed; unvaccinated chaperones would have to quarantine.</i>) | |
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STOP: If a troop is not able to create a viable and realistic plan to address these potential situations, consider rescheduling the trip.