Appendix: International “Field Experience” additional options in CPH during COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic has profoundly impacted our academic programs, especially on the courses and components that emphasize “hands-on” practices, such as international capstone projects and field experience in our programs. While waiving entire “international field experience” requirement could be an option, we believe that it may not best serve our students. Therefore, below are the modifications and suggestions regarding options for fulfilling an international field experience.

Students still must complete a global health field experience as current programs require but some flexibilities and additional options are allowed. While traveling abroad is prohibited or not an option, the students are strongly encouraged to discuss with your advisor alternative approaches to achieve the same or similar academic learning objectives. Below are just a few examples:

1. Local community instead of foreign country: Select and work with a local community with a high percentage of immigrants or global public health issues or challenges.
2. Virtual/collaboration instead of physical traveling: A project could still involve a foreign country. Instead of physically traveling to a foreign country, find some local partners and collaborators in the selected country to collaborate and work on a public health project.
3. Data analysis project: Work with a professor to conduct relevant data analysis related to a public health topic involving an international country.

Students are also encouraged to propose other possible options to appropriately fulfill the requirement to complete an international field experience project. In all cases, whichever option is chosen, it must be approved by the student’s academic advisor, and by the corresponding committee before the project is executed. Students can present their posters virtually once the projects are completed.