

MINSAP (the Ministry of Health) and ELAM school officials are working to ensure that no one gets sick (potential suspected cases are isolated and monitored at the on-campus hospital/policlinic for at least 14 days, but so far no one has tested positive), and – most importantly – making sure that no one loses the semester. Students are continuing with classes, albeit with adaptations re social distancing, etc. and they are studying hard.

There are some stores on campus so that students can buy some basic necessities (soap, toothpaste, detergent, and various other items) as well as a post-office, bank, etc. and of course the dining halls are serving three meals a day, etc. Some embassies are bringing stuff to their students. For our students, the lack of plentiful fresh fruits and vegetables and certain other health-promoting foods to which they are accustomed, is particularly difficult – things they were able to buy off-campus before the quarantine.

In addition, there is a serious drought in most of Cuba but Havana is in the worst situation in this regard. This, of course, complicates getting water to the dorms on a regular basis and involves the need for water-rationing, bucket baths, etc. And finally, just the fact that having to stay “on campus” indefinitely is super stressful, as is everyone’s concern about what’s happening back home.

At the Enrique Cabrera campus 3rd, 3th and 5th year students are participating in the daily *pesquisaje** every morning (those who want to, that is, since it is voluntary for foreign students) and continuing with their studies mostly through distance learning from the dorm and/or wherever they are living, with greater electronic communications, etc. The 6th year students are interns and are, therefore, working every day as per normal for 6th year students.

* *Pesquisaje* is the daily screening process of Cuban medical professionals and students going door-to-door to check in on residents -- in this case, in an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19.