



RESPONSE TO TRAVEL

Free Methodist World Missions' expertise is in church planting and leadership development. We're not experts on health. However, we do have systems in place to help us navigate the safety and welfare of our missionaries and volunteers. Like you, we're taking in the news about COVID-19 from a variety of sources. FMWM staff and Area Directors also receive a daily briefing via email provided by safety and security experts to help us stay informed of concerns that could impact FM personnel. We're not looking to engage in the "safest" ministry, but to go where the Holy Spirit is leading. As we go into more and more difficult places, we believe it's prudent to mitigate risks wisely, but not fearfully.

With the current COVID-19 pandemic, some of our missionaries have experienced significant travel disruptions or have been temporarily quarantined because their flights have taken them to airports in countries deemed high risk for COVID-19. While we view health and security as an individual responsibility, reports from field leadership have made it clear that we need to do our part to help contain the spread of the nova coronavirus and not endanger our volunteers, missionaries and the national church.



As of March 12, 2020, all ministry travel is on hold, at least, until June 1. This includes all VISA teams and assignments. Missionaries will need clearance from their Area Director before leaving their appointed ministry country. For any missionaries presently in the U.S. they will need Area Director clearance before engaging in international travel. FMWM will continue to assess when it's appropriate to adjust these travel restrictions.

Some of our sources:

[World Health Organization](#); [Centers for Disease Control](#); [Canada Public Health Services](#); [U.S. State Department country information on COVID-19](#).

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Regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic, for any international travel be informed. Stay current with the advice given by international, national and public health authorities. Follow the advice given by your healthcare provider. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.

For any international ministry with the Free Methodist Church USA, contact Jonathan.Eccles@fmcusa.org for processing and to get FMWM approved travel health insurance.

Obtain trip cancellation insurance if you desire to reduce your financial risk.

Register your international travel with the [U.S. Department of State, Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

FMWM Procedure for Ministry Cancellation

Green Light: Proceed as Planned

Yellow Light: Proceed with Caution (or postpone)

- Field-based leadership says it is safe to travel to the host country.
- NEW State Department travel warnings contraindicating travel have been posted on the Internet.
- News media reports indicate increased health and safety risks, an escalation of violence, or anti-North American demonstrations in neighboring countries and/or the host country.
- Confirm with Free Methodist World Missions staff on the advisability of travel and have an agreed-upon plan for contingencies.

Red Light: DO NOT TRAVEL

- Field-based leadership says it is NOT safe to travel to the host country.
- FMWM personnel will inform you of the need to cancel your plans and work with you to find an alternative ministry location or explore going later when conditions improve.