



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 novel 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:

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Jonathan Eccles ✦ Ministry Deployment Coordinator

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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](mailto: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.



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### FMWM Procedure for Ministry Cancellation

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#### Yellow Light: Proceed with Caution (or self-select out or postpone)

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As with any international travel on behalf of the Free Methodist Church-USA, FMWM asks individuals to work through our established systems based on experience and best practices for mission endeavors. For volunteers, we ask that they work with Jonathan Eccles, Ministry Deployment Coordinator for FMWM to ensure the Area Director and national leaders are looped in and give thorough thought to the desired ministry. Jonathan walks people through essential paperwork. He ensures volunteers have background checks and are signed up for travel health insurance through our VISA (Volunteers In Service Abroad) program.

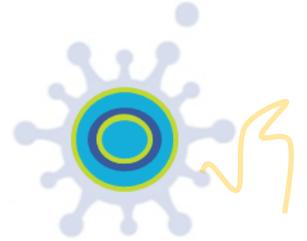
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FMMW Travel **advice**

COVID-19



A large rectangular area with a light yellow background, framed by a pink border at the top and bottom. This area is intended for writing or drawing.