



Updated 2-2-2021

## 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 continue to follow 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. 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.

*Free Methodist World Missions, in cooperation with our national leaders, will consider potential ministry opportunities on a case-by-case basis. Any approved ministry will be a collaborative process assessing ministry priorities while weighing everyone's health and safety.*

**ANY MINISTRY TRAVEL ON BEHALF OF THE FMC MUST HAVE AREA DIRECTOR APPROVAL AND AREA DIRECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING FROM THE BEGINNING.**

To ensure healthy ministry collaboration, any teams and individuals interested in taking a short-term mission trip should contact Jonathan Eccles at [jonathan.eccles@fmcusa.org](mailto:jonathan.eccles@fmcusa.org), or by calling 317-616-4777. *Appointed missionaries should work directly with their AD.*

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 and requirements for your intended ministry location given by international, national and public health authorities. Follow the advice given by your healthcare provider. Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.

**WE WILL NEED A COPY OF YOUR CDC COVID-19 VACCINATION RECORD CARD PRIOR TO YOUR TRIP.**

*(Any exceptions need to be cleared with FMWM.)*

For any international ministry with the Free Methodist Church USA, contact [jonathan.eccles@fmcusa.org](mailto:jonathan.eccles@fmcusa.org) for processing and to register for FMWM's approved travel health insurance. You should obtain a "Cancel/Interrupt for Any Reason" insurance policy for your trip 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.