



Updated 3-22-2021

RESPONSE TO TRAVEL

Free Methodist World Missions' expertise is in church planting and leadership development. While we're not health experts, we seek to stay informed. With mass vaccination efforts underway in the U.S. and declining COVID-19 outbreaks in some world areas, we recognize Americans are eager for life to return to a pre-pandemic state when international travel was relatively easy. We're not there! Ever-shifting international border regulations will continue to dictate what countries are open to U.S. travelers. Countries that have managed the pandemic with low caseloads may be slow to let Americans in and be quick to reimpose vigorous COVID-19 prevention measures, which may mean travelers run the risk of being stuck in a new lockdown if COVID-19 cases go up.

Reports from field leadership have made it clear that we need to do our part to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and shield yet-to-be vaccinated locals who may not have the opportunity for vaccination for many more months or years.

FMWM leadership is firm on balancing the desire for teams and individuals to serve globally while not jeopardizing the physical health of a destination's population.



- **ASSESSING MINISTRY PRIORITIES WILL BE A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WITH GLOBAL FMWM LEADERSHIP.**
- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ON BEHALF OF THE FMWM MUST HAVE AREA DIRECTOR APPROVAL AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING FROM THE BEGINNING.
- **INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED A MINIMUM OF 3 WEEKS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. THIS MEANS 3 WEEKS AFTER RECEIVING THE SECOND DOSE OF PFIZER AND MODERNA OR 1 DOSE OF JOHNSON & JOHNSON.**

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 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.