

**Covid 19 Update**

**Haiti March 28, 2020**

There have been six confirmed cases of Covid 19 in Haiti. This is somewhat deceiving because there is not a lot of testing being done so we don’t have good statistics.

 The good news is that the Haitian government is taking aggressive action and the general public seems to be responding. All commercial flights have been suspended until further notice. The US State Department has negotiated special chartered flights to repatriate US citizens. The last flight is now scheduled for Monday March 30. The State Department has advised anyone not returning to the United States by March 30 will need to remain in Haiti for an indefinite period. All ports have been closed. This may need to be relaxed due to the large volume of freight, particularly food that arrives by ship. The border with the Dominican Republic is closed. There is an 8:00PM until 5:00AM curfew in place. Gatherings of more than 10 people have been prohibited so schools, churches, many businesses and factories are closed.

 As you can imagine, life in Haiti just got more complicated as it has all over the world. Food is still generally available and the supermarkets are constantly re-stocking. It remains to be seen how long inventories will be sustained with the embargo on ships.

 People on the streets are taking the situation seriously. There are a surprising number of surgical masks being used. All employees at the major supermarkets are masked and gloved. Many stores and banks have restricted hours. So far there has not been a fuel shortage, however that always looms in the background.

 The Boy Scouts have been setting up handwash stations all around town and instructing people in proper hand washing techniques. We have a hand wash station here at the guesthouse and are encouraging everyone to wash their hands as they enter or leave the property.

 Many of the Pastors are conducting church services and prayer meeting online. Please keep Eglise Methodiste d’ Haiti and indeed all the people of Haiti in your continued prayers and know that many people in Haiti are praying daily for their brothers and sisters around the world.