

April 8, 2020

Update on How Covid-19 Has Affected SWH

It's everywhere and everyone is affected by covid-19. Cambodia is no exception. Currently, the official count of the number of covid-19 cases is 117 with majority of them being tourists.



Though the number sounds quite “safe,” many question the accuracy and fear that not everyone who should be tested are being tested.

Like most places, all schools in Cambodia were shut down indefinitely starting from March 16, 2020. No online classes are offered for public schools, including universities. To minimize the number of

students at SWH, we have asked students who are not committed to work to return home until school starts again. Before the students left, a special gathering was called by the leaders to explain the seriousness of the virus and to teach the students some preventive methods, especially the washing of hands and social distancing.

Currently, there are 6 students who remain at SWH because of their commitment to work. Fortunately, they're able to work at home. Ms. Reasey stays in contact with students who went home to continue to monitor that they are using all the preventive methods possible to keep themselves as well as their family members safe.



Please continue to pray for the students and the people of Cambodia as we do our best to live out this pandemic with wisdom and faith.

Khmer New Year Postponed!

Cambodia celebrates their New Year in April. This year, the Khmer New Year is April 14-16. This usually calls for great gatherings of people in all provinces, and everyone in the city returns to their hometown to celebrate with their extended family members. In fact, this is



the time when Cambodians worship their ancestors for blessings. This is a very important holiday for the people of Cambodia. There are many official and unofficial celebrations where hundreds and thousands of people gather. However, amid the current pandemic, the Prime Minister Hun Sen has

decided to postpone the Khmer New Year indefinitely. This is to prevent big crowds which may inadvertently cause spreading of the virus. Though many are disappointed, this seems to be a wise decision from the government. We can only hope that the citizens follow this directive and avoid big gatherings or celebrations.

Other news:

- Hye In Lee (Global Mission Fellow, Co-leader of SHW) is currently in Korea. She will return to Cambodia in May.
- Janice Lee (Coordinator of SWH) is currently in Hawaii. She will return to Cambodia in July after she completes her home leave.

How to Support: An annual tuition for most of the universities in Phnom Penh is about \$500.

Online support: <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-393-children-and-youth-scholarships.aspx>

Children and Youth Scholarships; Advance # 3020791

To donate by check: Please make your check payable to **Advance GCFA** and write the **Advance # 3020791** on the memo line. (Address: Advance GCFA PO Box 9068 GPO New York, NY 10087-9068)

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