



International Medical Partner Updates

COVID-19 Frontlines

April 22, 2020



There are situations arising where only God can be given the glory during this time of global pandemic. When we least expect it, we see he has been working in the background.

Early this week Dr. Douglas Lungu, MBF Chief Medical Officer reported staff from partner hospitals were much more equipped than expected because of supplies MBF gave them last year! In reassessing inventory they discovered PPE; masks and hand sanitizer that will keep our partners safe. A quick look at an expiration date for the hand sanitizer revealed that they happened upon this just in time—it expires at the end of the year. Just another way God is showing his provision as supplies are still difficult to find.

Education and information

Here are three new medical news reports from a reliable source that may be of interest to you, your friends and family members.

1. "Africa has a COVID-19 time bomb to diffuse"
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/africa-covid-19-time-bomb-defuse/>
2. John's Hopkins map showing current numbers internationally and locally
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>
3. Coronavirus vs. flu
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-vs-flu>

Progress and Efforts by International Partner Hospitals

Over the past few weeks, we have been sharing how MBF partner hospitals are preparing for the coming COVID-19 pandemic. These facilities play a critical role in providing medical care to the sick. Our partner hospitals shared how they are making hand sanitizer in Haiti, cloth masks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and preparing isolation wards in Embangweni.

Protests Start in Malawi, Haiti and Kenya

With political tensions amid the global pandemic, protests are adding havoc as the COVID numbers rise in Malawi, Haiti and Kenya. The initial social distancing measures of one to two meters apart (3-6 feet) and hand hygiene were adapted with little resistance. But the escalation to lockdowns has led to group protests that threaten to undo the progress being made in slowing the spread of the virus.

Hospitals strongly encouraged to equip and lead the local churches

Dr. Douglas Lungu, MBF Chief Medical Officer, in an email communication to the partners, emphasized the importance of the role of the health workers' ministry. The church is in a unique position right now and they carry authority to respond to people looking for guidance through this confusing time. He further exhorted them to not just model appropriate precaution to the public but also meet the spiritual and physical needs of their communities.

Prayer Needs and Requests

2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

- Your MBF team and International partners continue to pray each morning for strength for all the healthcare workers who are on the front-line. That they may be protected and have His peace as they care for patients.
- In Malawi, please pray for calm among the general population and wisdom for government leaders as they develop measures to protect the people.
- Haiti has 47 confirmed cases and three deaths. Reports from our partners indicate that the general Haitian population is not taking the virus seriously. Despite education and some restrictions from the government, markets and other activities are continuing. Pray for the effectiveness of the community and patient education efforts by the hospitals and government.
- In Kenya, Clive Irvine School of Community Nursing has closed. Measures have been put in place including sensitization messages, hand sanitization at strategic places and an isolation room. Pray for peace for the students and staff as they wait to resume their classes.
- Please pray for IMCK in DR Congo. They have had 2 deaths from what seems to be ebola resurfacing. Pray for endurance for the staff as they are also taking COVID cases.