

October 30, 2021

SWH Student COVID-19 Positive...

Cambodia celebrates what would be the equivalent of Thanksgivings Day in September, called Pchum Ben. On this day, everyone is expected to return to their hometown and celebrate by worshipping their ancestors in thanksgiving. Although Christian Cambodians do not participate in ancestor worshipping, it is customary for them to return to their hometown.

At Susanna Wesley House, the leaders were hesitant about sending all the students home due to their safety. Taking precautions against COVID-19 is not strictly followed in the provinces. However, because this was a very special holiday, we decided to let them return to home for a week, pleading with them to avoid crowded places and to follow the precautions for COVID-19.

Despite our complete trust in the students, the leaders felt that because SWH is a community with students from 5 different provinces, we should test all the students with RAPID COVID-19 tester. Each test cost us \$8, and we needed to buy enough for 25 students to be tested twice (another test after 14 days). Although it was an extra expense, this was essential for everyone's safety.

To our relief, all students tested negative until the last student arrived. To everyone's shock, the test showed that she was COVID-19 positive. We immediately sent her to a place where she could receive PCR test to confirm the test result. Unfortunately, the test result did not come out immediately, and the hospital advised her to return "home" since her symptoms were not serious. She complained of coughs and sore throat.

So, the student returned to SWH, and we quarantined her to a room by herself for 14 days. Although she was only in contact with 2 people since she arrived, all of the students were fearful of having come in contact with the virus. Fortunately, the PCR test result showed it was not a Delta variant. After 14 days, we tested all the students again, and to our great relief, they ALL tested negative, including the student who had contracted COVID-19. Praise God!



Disinfecting SWH After 14-Days



After all of the students tested negative to COVID-19, we decided to hire a company to professionally disinfect the entire house. All the students were thankful toward the leaders for trying their best to keep all of the students safe at SWH!

Schools Reopen on November 1

Schools in Cambodia have been online since March of this year. We provided all the necessary items for the SWH students (desktop, laptops, wifi, etc.) to continue their education, but it was still very difficult for them. The SWH students are looking forward to schools reopening but are also apprehensive about maintaining their safety. They have learned it the hard way the impact one person's positive case can have on everyone in SWH. The leaders are grateful for the students' conscientious efforts to take care of each other by keeping themselves safe. Please pray for our precious students at SWH as they start in-person school to not only keep safe but also to do well in school!

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

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