



Covid Numbers going down in the city but ...

... In recent months, the capital city of Phnom Penh, with over 2 million inhabitants, was hard hit with a rise of Covid cases, prompting affirmative action from local government to stop the spread of the virus. Zones with high, moderate and low rates were created through the city and movement to and from these zones restricted. Thankfully, this effort is starting to pay off as the numbers of cases in the city have stabilised and are starting to drop. Pockets of cases were found mostly among the garment factories where people live and work in close proximity.

The roll-out of vaccines was concentrated in these high-risk areas first and, to date, over 5 million doses have been administered to the public. This has been heralded as an incredible accomplishment with Cambodia only second to Singapore among Southeast Asian countries.

But despite great efforts to curb the spread of the virus and, added to this, the efficient roll-out of vaccines, numbers outside the capital city have started to rise. Travel to various provinces has been reduced to only essential travel like transporting goods but, despite this, there are reports of the numbers growing around the country

The government is moving quickly to set up more and more vaccine stations with weekly flights, mostly from China, bringing in these much-needed vaccines. The plan is to try and get as many people vaccinated and create a herd immunity of at least 80% of the entire population

The country recognises the need to open up again to outsiders and talk has already begun on how to revive the once bustling tourist industry. This sector creates hundreds of thousands of jobs and brings over \$5 billion in revenue to the Kingdom. However, there is a long way to go before tourists can safely and inexpensively travel to Cambodia.



Hopefully getting back to Cambodia.

Foreign travel to Cambodia has proven really difficult for many people. The government has been swift in placing various protective measures on people visiting the Kingdom. Measures such as full Covid-19 insurance travel cover, which is difficult to obtain, as many insurance companies are reluctant to cover Covid cases. Visas are no longer issued on arrival at the airport and in some countries like the UK can only be applied for at the overseas embassy.

Two of our returning team members have needed to provide a lot of different declarations, invitations and official documentation before being granted the opportunity to apply for a visa.

As has been reported in the press lately, the tourism industry is calling for a relaxing of many of these hard restrictions placed on any foreign visitor, particularly the costs of hotels and the length of the quarantine period.



So please stand with us in prayer.

- Cambodia needs to recover like any other country. Sectors such as the tourism industry are crucial to many jobs. Pray that wisdom will prevail among those who need to open up as this becomes a possibility.
- Our team members returning to Cambodia need your prayers. So far, their application papers are ready for submission. Please pray that this will be received with favour and that visas will be granted to the two of them.
- As schools break for the holidays, some of our team members have children who will need to adjust to another holiday, mostly indoors as most of the venues around the city are still closed. Pray for grace and patience to both the parents and the children.

God Bless.

Chris