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As the World Reopens

With the roll-out of vaccines creeping across the globe, and with pandemic fatigue ever present, there will certainly be pent-up interest in travel opportunities reopening. But what exactly does that mean, and when will it be safe to travel again to HVO project sites?

Travel Logistics

Airlines anticipate that shorter routes will open soon, but that it will take a while for some of the longer flights to return. For airlines anticipating those longer routes, such as Australia's Qantas, their plan for an October reopening will involve very limited routes. Additionally, it is expected that some of the longer routes will see much higher fares than prior to the pandemic.

Most airlines will probably require some proof of being free of COVID-19, whether that is through a vaccine card, a negative COVID-19 test, or both.

Will airlines fly at full capacity or will it be possible to maintain some distance from fellow passengers? Will passengers feel comfortable flying long distances sitting next to strangers who may not have been vaccinated? These are the questions that each person will need to consider before boarding a flight.

While a number of countries have closed borders now, the easy flow of travel that existed pre-pandemic will not be the case for a while. Countries will open up at a different pace, and some may open, and find that outbreaks force them to close down again. Some countries may decide to change their visa policies, and changes may relate to the COVID status in the traveler's home country.

Currently, there are a number of countries that require a quarantine period for all travelers upon arrival, which ranges from 10-21 days. This can mean being confined to a government facility at the airport, or a local hotel, often at the traveler's own expense. Will such quarantines expand to most countries?



Photo courtesy of Nancy Kelly

published by:

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News & Events

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“Without courage, all other values lose their meaning..”

– Winston Churchill

Dear Friends,

After a year of being confined, it is interesting to see the different reactions as the pandemic drags on. There are those people who seem to throw caution to the wind and are ready to open everything as soon as they have the vaccine. There are others who are extremely hesitant to get the vaccine, despite the remarkable global results of all the trials.

It has been such a strange year, which has been devastating in numerous ways. So many across the world have suffered the loss of family and friends; others the loss of a business or income. For many children and students the year has been one of limited schooling, which will mean the need for remedial education to recover from this year. The pandemic has also highlighted the inequities of our global societies on many different levels but, certainly, in health care.

Our cover article discusses some of the issues that will need to be addressed as the world begins the process of reopening. It will not be easy or quick but, with careful planning and courage, we can begin to emerge from the nightmare that we have endured.

HVO has always operated with a long-term vision, as education involves changing and internalizing new attitudes and behaviors. That long-term vision will guide us as we approach the world’s reopening with courage and patience.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy A. Kelly, MHS
Executive Director

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As the World Reopens

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There may also be restrictions on travel within a country, to ensure that more vulnerable areas are protected from the spread of the virus.

Upon returning home after the travel assignment, there may be another quarantine period. How does that impact your professional colleagues at home, who may need to cover for you for an extended period of absence?



Photo courtesy of Bryan Gunnoe

Project Sites

HVO will not reopen a current project site until the partner institute indicates that they are ready to welcome volunteers once again. If an institution decides to welcome volunteers, some departments might not be ready to accept volunteers which would mean there are staggered reopenings across an institution. Are there additional policies and regulations that the institute has that are different from those of the host government, in terms of proof of vaccination or negative testing, or a quarantine period?

So much has changed in the world as a result of the pandemic and it may be that project sites will have changed their priorities in terms of the specific training activities that they request. We cannot assume that all current project activities will remain the same - as needs and priorities may have changed. HVO will be working with each project site to assess that the project goals are appropriate and to determine if there are additional project areas that would take priority in our changed environment.

Vaccines

Unfortunately, the global vaccine roll-out is not occurring at a similar pace so there will be large swaths of the world that will not be vaccinated for quite some time. With variants of the virus appearing across the globe, it is also not clear how effective the existing vaccines will be against the new mutations.

Once an HVO project site reopens, it may be that our professional colleagues have received vaccines, as health care providers, but the majority of patients will not yet have received the vaccine. It is still not



Photo courtesy of Kruiy Lim

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As the World Reopens

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clear whether or not vaccines prevent the recipient from transmitting the virus. What are the ethical issues around a vaccinated volunteer being a carrier of the virus?

Similarly, if a volunteer contracts the virus while on an assignment, what are the ethical concerns about obtaining treatment in resource-limited environments?

Assessing the Future

As has been the case so often during this past year, there is much we still do not know about the coronavirus. Each week seems to bring new information and new dilemmas. The process of reopening the world will not be easy or clear-cut. HVO has begun having the difficult discussions about this process, and we will be guided by science and the advice of WHO and the CDC. We, too, are eager to return to project sites and reconnect with colleagues and friends but we want to do so in a manner that is safe and respectful.



Photo courtesy of Richard Fisher

In the meantime, we are grateful for the educational opportunities that are underway in an online format! HVO’s advice for all volunteers is as relevant as ever – “Stay Flexible!” We will provide updates as the process unfolds.



A planned gift ensures that HVO will be able to continue to make important educational strides in the improvement of health care in resource-scarce countries.

When you write or review your will, please consider leaving HVO a charitable bequest as an investment in HVO’s future. To discuss making a bequest in your will or other charitable aspects of your estate planning, please contact Nancy Kelly at giving@hvousa.org.

If you have already made a charitable bequest, please let us know. We would like the opportunity to express our gratitude and will honor all requests to remain anonymous.

Thank you to the following people who have made this commitment:

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News & Events

Paul E. Spray, MD, and a lifetime of providing orthopaedic care



HVO is saddened by the loss of Dr. Paul Ellsworth Spray, one of the early members of Orthopaedics Overseas, and a member of HVO's Surgeons' Circle. He volunteered his skills and knowledge in Jordan, Nigeria, Algeria, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Peru, and Ghana. In 1992 he was honored with the Orthopaedics Overseas Humanitarian Award and in 2013 he received the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Humanitarian Award. His commitment to global orthopaedic care included his work from 1959-1968 with CARE/MEDICO, a period where he served on 23 month-long assignments around the world. He was a member of the CARE board of directors and also served as a vice president.

After his residency, Dr. Spray moved to Oak Ridge, TN in 1950 where he began his medical practice as one of the first orthopaedic surgeons in East Tennessee. He continued to treat patients in the area until 1998.

HVO extends its condolences to his family, as well as its gratitude for a lifetime of commitment to global orthopaedic care.

Against All Obstacles

How important is education and training to our colleagues abroad? Very! Mr. Gangtey, a physiotherapist from Bhutan, was awarded an HVO scholarship to attend an international hand therapy conference in Melbourne, Australia last March.

The day he was to depart Bhutan, a landslide blocked the road. He had a relative drop him off at the blockage and hiked through the rubble until he could reach the other side, as he was determined not to miss the conference. Meanwhile, the first COVID-19 case appeared in Bhutan and flights were being cancelled. When asked if he thought he should stay home, he insisted on traveling.

He managed to fly on one of the few flights, participate in the conference, and spent a few days shadowing an HVO volunteer at her work site. By then, the world was starting to shut down, flights everywhere were being cancelled, and the few remaining ones were booked solid.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Gangtey

There were a few tense days as we worried Mr. Gangtey might be sheltering in Australia for months. Finally, a seat opened up, and Mr. Gangtey was on his way back home where he was told he would need to quarantine for 21 days. His response? "It gives me a great opportunity to study all the wonderful materials I received at the conference."

Never underestimate the power of education, and the difference it can make in transforming lives!

News & Events

REPORT FROM THE FIELD

Vietnamese Nurses Inducted in Sigma Theta Tau



Honorees (left) with HMTU President and HMTU Head of International Cooperation

Congratulations to colleagues at Hai Duong Medical Technical University (HMTU) in Vietnam, who were inducted in the international nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau. Do Thi Hien, RN, PhD, leads the nursing department and Dam Thi Thuy, RN, MS, is a faculty member. Both were inducted in the Eastern Michigan University School of Nursing's chapter (Eta Rho) of the honor society, for the contributions they have made to nursing education and practice at their university in Vietnam. They represent the only nurses in Vietnam who have secured membership in the prestigious honor society.

Betty Beard, RN, MSN, PhD, is HVO's project director for nursing education at HMTU as well as Professor Emeritus at Eastern Michigan University. She has worked to foster a working relationship between the two schools and was

pleased to see these two nurses honored for their leadership and commitment to developing nursing education.

The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society has a mission to develop nursing leadership "anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere." As part of their goals, they seek to promote nursing scholarship, leadership, and service, and expand and develop strategic relationships. Initiated in 1922, the honor society now has more than 560 chapters. Their name is derived from the Greek words for love, courage, and honor, to acknowledge the values embedded in the nursing profession.



Do Thi Hien, RN, PhD and Dam Thi Thuy, RN, MS

New HVO Partnership



HVO has formed a new partnership with The American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPEN) and The International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA). With this collaboration among the three organizations, the visibility and need for pediatric nephrologists will be enhanced, and there will be increased opportunity for association members to participate in education, clinical care, mentorship, and research in resource-challenged settings. HVO is very pleased to partner with these organizations and looks forward to the start of virtual trainings, with the hope that on-site education can be achieved in the not-too-distant future.

News & Events

HVO VIRTUAL WEBINAR SERIES

Topics in Global Health

HVO has launched a new series of webinars in which volunteers are speaking about some of the work they are doing, or have done, at project sites and, more generally, about issues that impact global health care. The sessions run an hour in length, so they can be viewed during a lunch break.

If you miss the live presentations, the recorded sessions are available on the HVO YouTube channel, which can be accessed from HVO's website.

Mark your calendar, as the next webinar will be Friday, April 23rd at 2 pm Eastern time. The session will address the successes and challenges of e-volunteering. Dr. Elizabeth Shick will discuss her work with pediatric dentistry in Nepal and Dr. Habib Ghaddar will discuss his work in palliative care in Bhutan.



Virtual Projects at HVO Successes & Challenges

Habib Ghaddar, MD, FACP – palliative care in Bhutan
Elizabeth Shick, DDS, MPH – pediatric dentistry in Nepal



Join us on Friday, April 23, 2021 | 2pm – 3pm Eastern
Sessions will be recorded and available later

If you have topics to suggest, please contact Membership@hvousa.org to share your ideas.

Previous sessions include:



An Introduction to WHO's Rehabilitation 2030

Monika Mann, PT, MPH



Join us on Friday, March 26, 2021 | 1pm – 2pm Eastern

Monika Mann, PT, MPH presented “An Introduction to WHO’s Rehabilitation 2030” which highlighted this new initiative designed to recognize the unmet global rehabilitation needs and the importance of incorporating rehabilitation in strengthened health systems.

**Dr. Kiran Agarwal-Harding, MD, MPH
Presents**
*The Role of International
Volunteerism, Research, and
Education for Orthopaedic Capacity
Building in Malawi*

followed by a Q&A session led by Divya Singh, MD



Kiran Agarwal-Harding, MD, MPH presented “International Volunteerism, Research, and Education for Orthopaedic Capacity Building in Malawi”, based on his post-doctorate fellowship in the country.

Build • Invest • Advance • Transform

E-Volunteering with HVO



In March 2020, HVO had to withdraw all volunteers from our project sites. As it became obvious that the pandemic would not permit volunteers to travel for some time, HVO pivoted to a new educational mode – the virtual project.



REFRESHER COURSE



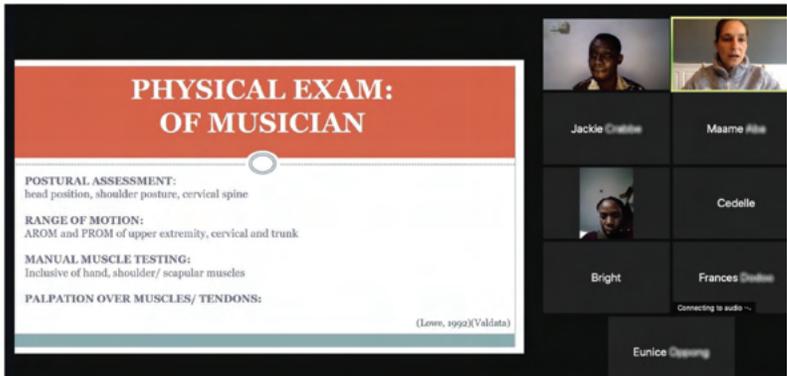
The anesthesiology department at Hue University in Vietnam had to postpone a workshop scheduled for April, 2020 due to COVID. They got creative and worked with HVO volunteers to successfully conduct an airway management course with 5 learning stations and several lectures in late November.

In an email updating the HVO Executive Director about the workshop, Dr. Nguyen Van Minh noted that, “ It is a sweet fruit from the long journey with the support from HVO. We wait for the moment when COVID-19 is over and we will welcome HVO again.”



Active e-projects in:

- Bhutan** **Myanmar**
- Cambodia** **Nepal**
- Ghana** **Peru**
- Guatemala** **Rwanda**
- India** **Tanzania**
- Laos** **Uganda**
- Malawi** **Vietnam**



Above: Physical therapy students in Ghana tune into a virtual lecture presented by Jenna Millman, OTR/L, CHT.

"This year we set up a monthly zoom call with the faculty in Myanmar that is well attended."

- Antoinette Sander, DPT, MS, CLT-LANA



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PT
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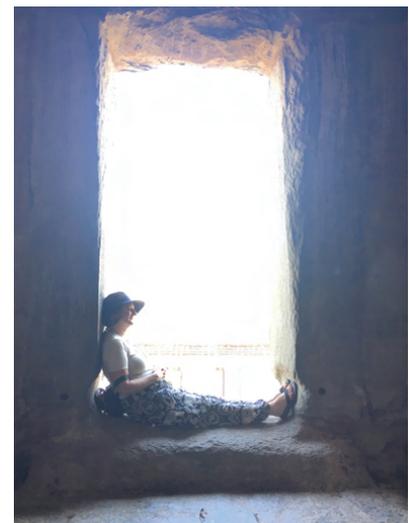


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