



Boletín  
**Newsletter.**

Hands of Grace | JUNE, 2020 | COVID-19 in Nicaragua.

## About...

*As part of social responsibility with our collaborators and our protagonists, this small newsletter is carried out with the aim of providing truthful information about the event and the impact that the COVID-19 is taking in Nicaragua, in the city of Matagalpa and in the communities where Hands of Grace is present with its projects, (Solingalpa and Aranjuez). Likewise, share the actions that the Missions is taking to prevent and reduce infections, promote community and family prevention actions and continue with our Mission and Vision in our projects.*

*"As a social ministry we consider that the health of our protagonists and volunteers is essential to continue meeting our objectives and programs." Hna. Lucidalia Olivas, (Coordinator.)*

## In This Post...

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COVID-19 in Nicaragua, figures and true information provided by official sources of the Pan American Health Organization (O.P.S), World Health Organization (W.H.O) and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINSA).

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COVID-19 / Hands of Grace: Actions and Communities.

## *Covid-19, In Our Communities...*

Our societies are going through processes of change. Changes that have been of impact to take better actions in emergencies and new social processes. Covid-19 has marked our societies in a massive way, regardless of the social, cultural, economic and territorial gaps that have identified us as Humanity.

The new CORONA VIRUS cataloged by the World Health Organization, as a Pandemic and that has left thousands of dead and millions of infected on the five continents. First notified in the Wuhan region of China on December 31, 2019. "WHO is working closely with global experts, governments and partners to rapidly expand scientific knowledge about this new virus, track its spread and virulence, and advise countries and individuals on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of the outbreak" (OMS, 2020) Nicaragua as an active member of the United Nations has taken actions and has been working directly with the WHO and PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), both organizations have agents and delegates who work together with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, providing reports and training as well as prevention actions in the face of the world emergency.

*"OIM Nicaragua with @UNICEFNicaragua, @UNFPANIC and @opsomsnic, delivered medical equipment to the Ministry of Health, which will be used to care for people affected by #COVID19."* <https://twitter.com/opsomsnic>

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is in charge of monitoring cases and official statistics of new cases, in relation to Nicaragua where it received its first case at the end of March, "on June 24, 2020 has 2,014 cases reported nationwide, with a death of 64" (OPS, 2020) in response to vulnerable patients with a registry of chronic diseases and elderly adults. Being one of the countries with the fewest cases registered in the region.

The ministry of health is being supported by PAHO, international organizations such as UNICEF, UNFPANIC and IOM, receiving donations to mitigate and treat infected patients, provide awareness and prevention campaigns to reduce the rate of infections..

Something that needs to be reported is that Nicaragua is on Epidemiological Alert, according to the Ministry of Health and as it is routine before the entry of the rainy season that corresponds to the months between July and November, protocols are established for the prevention of dengue outbreaks, Zika, Chikungunya and transmission diseases typical of the time, which are attributed direct guidance to the country's authorities and health authorities to take the appropriate measures to prevent and control any epidemic outbreak in the territory. (MINSA, Resolucion Ministerial N° 306, 2019)

## *MINSA, actions before COVID-19.*

The Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINSA) is coordinating with different national entities in order to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in the country. As a first maneuver, it collaborates with the Ministry of the Interior and its Migration extension to be able to responsibly follow up on possible patients entering the country with respiratory symptoms and signs of COVID-19, performing a rapid examination to detect if any traveler from countries with massive cases is carrying the virus.

If there are cases with respiratory symptoms and an epidemiological link, this person will be admitted to a health center for study and follow-up.

If a positive case for the coronavirus is found, you will be admitted to the health unit established for your medical attention.

Preventive measures are promoted to the population.

(MINSA, Medidas Frente al Coronavirus, 2020)



## Matagalpa, the covid-19 FROM OUR VIEW...

Matagalpa society is aware of the emergency situation, is following personal and community safety protocols, although there is no mandatory Quarantine, many people are taking "Self-quarantine" with the intention of reducing their exposure to the virus. , the economic impact that it is creating worldwide has had a significant impact on the rise in prices of products with no future shortages, local businesses, banks and public entities are doing their daily work in a normal way, however they are taking protocols of intense security with the population such as temperature taking, use of alcohol gel and the use of a mandatory mask when entering the premises.

In the streets there has been an increase in the use of a mask as a personal prevention strategy. Matagalpa has a series of public and private clinics, a health center and a Regional Hospital, this being the main center of care for chronic patients of COVID. The Hospital is being able to effectively meet the demand to avoid collapses in the health system, the Hospital is safeguarding high-risk cases such as the elderly and chronic cases, low-risk or null cases are referred to their homes with a security and isolation protocol, where they are directly followed and treated for their proper recovery.

### *Hands of Grace Missions, Our communities...*

As part of the responsibilities and with the aim of reducing contagions and the spread of the virus, we have designed a series of safety protocols with our children, workers and volunteers in both projects (Solingalpa and Aranjuez). They have been provided with masks, shoeshine when entering the center and handwashing is constantly promoted, giving them the necessary resources (water, soap, alcohol gel, chlorine).

As part of the distancing strategy, attention was changed when providing food. Children were divided into small groups to avoid congestion and to receive their food safely and small lessons from Bible teaching are scheduled.

The safety and hygiene protocol was reinforced with our kitchen staff, the use of masks and gloves.

Covid-19 has not directly affected our children and staff. In our project in Aranjuez, no case of Covid has been presented. we identify a possible case that turned out to be Negative for Covid-19.

Being aware of the emergency situation and given the rainy season, respiratory diseases such as common flu, influenza and allergies, viral diseases such as diarrhea, Zika, Chikungunya and dengue will be visible. To avoid confusion with COVID-19, an isolation and follow-up protocol will be taken for the affected person, without jeopardizing the safety of our children and staff.

Solingalpa has a health center directly connected to the Matagalpa Regional Hospital, being a link to attend to any emergency situation that occurs in the community. Aranjuez has a private provisional health center.

Covid-19 is having an impact on our communities and we have to take action, raise awareness and strengthen our hygiene habits to mitigate possible cases, thanks to God until now Covid-19 in our country and our communities is under control and We hope that very soon we can see this pandemic reduced to a minimum, as a social ministry we consider that the health of our protagonists and volunteers is essential to continue meeting our objectives and programs.

Written by Elyin Rivera & Hna. Lucidalia Olivas.



## Bibliography

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