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SAMARITANOS VOLADORES

Trip Report

San Quintin, Baja

March 19 – 21, 2021

Doug Wirzberger, President, Mother Lode Chapter

doug@wirzberger.net Cell: +1 209-969-9710

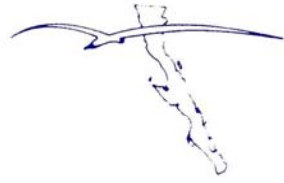
Introduction

Together with my wife, I made a trip to San Quintin via my private aircraft from March 19 through March 21, 2021. The objectives of the trip were:

1. Note any differences in the process of clearing into Mexico via Mexicali airport (none anticipated).
2. Note COVID protocols in place at Hotel Santa Maria and San Quintin area restaurants that we frequent during our chapter's clinics.
3. Have a meeting with Dr. Rita Gonzalez of Buen Pastor hospital to gather information about local regulations/guidelines for clinic operations in the San Quintin area.
4. Meet with Arturo Rodríguez of Rancho Los Pinos to discuss any requirements that the ranch will have for us to resume clinics.
5. Get first-hand experience with crossing requirements back into USA via private aircraft. My wife and I are both vaccinated. I will be considered 'crew', she will be considered 'passenger'. Test if the CBP enforces the CDC's 3-day negative test requirement upon entering into USA at Calexico for 'passengers'. I have about a handful of reports from other pilots stating that CBP does not even ask for test results, so I am not expecting any issue.
6. Deliver paper letters to each of our local volunteers stating their affiliation with our clinic and requesting access to vaccination as soon as possible.
7. Deliver various supplies/cargo to the clinic building.

Trip Summary

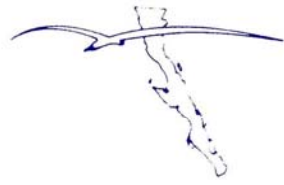
1. March 19, 2021
 - a. Entrance to Mexico at Mexicali Airport
 - i. At the plane after shutdown:
 1. As normal, security soldiers (all wearing masks) approached my plane after shutdown.



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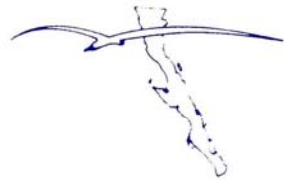
2. Their German shepherd sniffed around the plane but didn't smell anything interesting.
 3. I provided the usual information (departure point, destination, etc.).
 4. They took digital pictures of my plane and tail number.
 5. They did not ask me to remove any baggage.
 6. All were very polite.
- ii. Inside the terminal:
 1. Business as usual with all personnel wearing masks.
 2. Entry visa is \$594 pesos.
 3. Exit visa is \$154 pesos.
 - iii. **PIREPs:**
 1. The multi-entry permit was \$1807 pesos. I paid by Visa.
 2. Fuel was \$24 pesos/liter. (At 19 pesos/dollar, this is roughly \$4.77/gallon). I paid by Visa.
 - a. I did not ask for the discount that has been given to the Flying Samaritans in the past.
 3. They have new fuel truck!!!
- b. Arrival at Los Pinos airstrip:
 - i. The strip is still in GREAT condition. No changes noted.
 - ii. Valentin (the normal security guy) approached my plane after shutdown and took the normal information.
 - iii. Cecilia had the Dodge pickup ready for us.
 - c. At the clinic building:
 - i. The Mother Lode green van and white Jeep and one Gold Coast Subaru look like they haven't been driven in a while. At least one tire on each vehicle seemed halfway flat.
 - ii. The roof of the old 'garage' has been completely removed.
 - iii. Quick assessment of the condition of the medical clinic building was good.
 1. I did not look in the dental or optical clinics.
 - d. At the Hotel Santa Maria:
 - i. All staff were wearing masks. Hand sanitizer at the entrance.
 - ii. The posted room rate is \$1000 pesos/night.
 1. I checked with Vera (front desk manager) and she stated that this would be the rate for the Flying Sams as well (no discount).



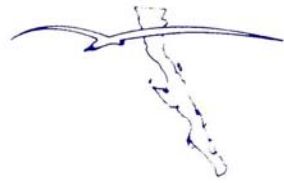
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- iii. There were a couple of groups of motorcycle/ATV riders, but other than that, the hotel seemed fairly quiet.
 - iv. El Rincon (hotel bar) is again open after being closed for a year. Abraham still makes awesome margaritas.
 - e. At Eucalypto:
 - i. Fully open.
 - ii. All staff wearing masks. Hand sanitizer at the entrance.
 - iii. They closed for 2-3 months last year, during which time the bar, kitchen and dining areas were expanded.
 - iv. The food is still dynamite!
 - v. Rick and Margie Wilson were in town for a birthday celebration of Javier's (restaurant owner) 3 year old son.
 - 1. Rick and Margie are ready to resume clinics and want to participate in the committee that will define operating protocol for clinics during COVID-19.
 - f. General observations when driving through town:
 - i. All stores are open.
 - ii. People observe masks and distancing in public.
2. March 20, 2021:
- a. Hospital Buen Pastor ("HBP"), meeting with Dr. Rita Gonzalez. Topics of discussion:
 - i. "COFEPRIS":
 - 1. Due to its location of San Quintin, the Hospital Buen Pastor is in the jurisdiction of "COFEPRIS", District IV. (Comision Federal para la Proteccion contra Riescos Sanitarios, <https://www.gob.mx/cofepris>).
 - a. The District IV COFEPRIS office is in Vicente Guerrero (~15 miles north of San Quintin).
 - 2. The hospital created a 4-page protocol to which defines the practices and procedures they will follow to operate the clinic during COVID-19.
 - a. Dr. Gonzalez will provide me with a copy of the protocol for reference.
 - b. Dr. Gonzalez summarized their protocol as 'basic' (e.g. take temperatures, hand sanitizer, enquire about COVID symptoms, segregate any people with respiratory symptoms, etc.)
 - 3. All people arriving at HBP are screened for COVID-19 symptoms at a small booth located at the entrance to the HBP courtyard.
 - a. The locals know this as "FILTA".



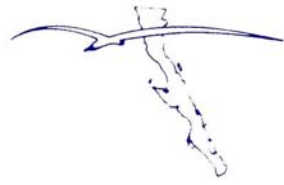
4. Only people essential to accompany a patient are allowed into the in-patient facility.
 - a. Dr. Gonzalez noted that our criteria need not be so stringent given that we are not an in-patient facility.
 5. During a 'surprise' inspection of the hospital by COFEPRIS, the inspectors wanted to see that the documented protocol was being followed. No issues were noted resulting from the COFEPRIS inspection. According to Dr. Gonzalez, it was a 'non-event'.
- ii. "DIF"
1. Ensenada "DIF" (National System for Integral Family Development)
 2. I provided copy of the "Sanitation Filter November 2020" to Dr. Gonzalez for her comment.
 - a. See Appendix A.
 3. She stated that DIF is not a regulatory agency.
 - a. "They have no bite. It is more of a welfare/political organization with no power or authority."
 4. She summarized the 7 bullet points on the document as 'basic' and 'easy' to comply with.
 5. She commented that Item #5 ("Assistance is preferable without children or elderly") does not prevent the treatment of children and elderly. She says that locals commonly understand not to bring extra people if they are not necessary. But, in her opinion, the DIF document does not state children and elderly cannot be treated.
- iii. Treatment of COVID-19 Patient
1. A hospital has been established specifically for treatment of COVID-19 patients in Vicente Guerrero.
- iv. Local availability of Vaccine
1. The vaccine is still not readily available in the San Quintin area. Despite the Mexican government's claim that all healthcare workers have been vaccinated, only about half of the HBP staff has been vaccinated.
 - a. She does not anticipate that the remainder of her staff will be vaccinated within the next 2 or 3 months.
- v. Availability of on-site Rapid Test



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1. All patients admitted for in-patient care at HBP must test negative for COVID.
 2. An approved, private lab provides the Rapid test on-site at HBP. Cost is \$600 - \$1500 pesos/test.
 - a. Dr. Gonzalez does not feel a negative COVID test is needed/appropriate for treatment of patients in our clinic given that we only provide outpatient services.
- vi. Mexico uses a 4-color COVID status system.
1. There are two color codes: national and state (Baja).
 - a. The state/federal codes color codes do not always agree with each other.
 - b. Baja uses the "state" color code.
 - c. As of today, the state color code is Yellow
 - i. Yellow = Resuming limited activities, but with precaution.
 - b. Rancho Los Pinos (the "Ranch"), Arturo Rodriguez
 - i. Arturo is our liaison with the Ranch.
 - ii. Topics of discussion:
 1. Review sections of the FSML "Clinic During COVID-19 Protocol" document.
 - a. The Ranch is in full support of the resumption of clinics.
 - b. It is OK for us to set up a "Filta" (screening area) just inside the entrance gate to the Ranch.
 - c. It is OK for us to use the open hangar as a waiting area.
 - i. It is OK to use the parking area by the hangar as our clinic parking lot during COVID.
 - ii. The Ranch requests that a FSML Volunteer be stationed as a "crossing guard" as the road between the clinic buildings and the hangar can be busy.
 - iii. The Ranch requests that 3 parking spaces closest to the hangar be reserved for airstrip visitors for Ranch business.
 2. The Ranch is not concerned about a COFEPRIS inspection. The Ranch is confident that the FSML protocol meets and exceeds an expectation that COFEPRIS may have.

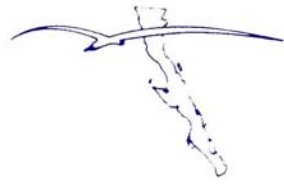


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3. The Ranch is not aware of any other governmental agency that will be concerned with clinic services provided during COVID.
3. March 21, 2021
 - a. Exit immigration process at Mexicali airport.
 - i. Nothing abnormal.
 - b. Entrance immigration at Calexico airport.
 - i. The entry process to USA was just as before COVID.
 - ii. No mention was made about a negative COVID test by CBP agents.
 - iii. Just before I exited the office to return to my plane, I casually asked the agents about the CDC test requirements: "Nah, we're directed no to ask about that."

<End of Report>



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APPENDIX A: DIF Sanitation Filter 2020 document



ENSENADA
XXIII AYUNTAMIENTO
"EL COMPROMISO ES DE TODOS"



SANITATION FILTER NOVEMBER 2020

THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOL WILL BE OBSERVED BY PARTICIPANTS IN ANY MEDICAL OUTREACH OR CLINIC IN OBSERVANCE OF THE COVID 19 PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- 1.- VERIFY TEMPERATURE: ANY PERSON PRESENTING A TEMPERATURE OF 39 IS RESTRICTED FROM THE HIGHER
- 2.- HANDS MUST BE SANITISED WITH ANTIBACTERIAL GEL OR LIQUID DISINFECTANT.
- 3.- MASK MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE NOT WEARING ONE IN ORDER TO ALLOW ENTRY.
- 4.- SAFE DISTANCING MUST BE OBSERVED BETWEEN ONE PERSON AND ANOTHER (1.5 METERS)
- 5.- ASSISTANCE IS PREFERABLE WITHOUT CHILDREN OR ELDERLY PERSONS.
- 6.- NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS IS LIMITED TO 30% OF THE AREA'S TOTAL CAPACITY.
- 7.- ACTIVITIES MUST TAKE PLACE IN OPEN SPACES.



Av. Reforma 80, Fracc. Bahía
C.P. 22880, Ensenada B.C.



ensenada.gob.mx