

Dorohoi and Coronavirus

4th April 2020

Just to let you know what the situation is here in Dorohoi. The schools were all closed on 11th March and we have been in complete lockdown since 23rd March. Everything is closed with the exception of food shops and pharmacies. We are allowed to go outside very briefly for essential food shopping or for work/ voluntary work but we need to complete a form each time we leave the house and can be stopped by the police to explain where we are going!

Thankfully, Dorohoi has so far been very well protected from the virus. As far as we know, just one person has been diagnosed at our local hospital. The young lady, who was brought to the hospital from a local village, had other health issues and did sadly die. Earlier this week, there was talk of our local hospital becoming the county's Covid 19 hospital but it has since been decided that a hospital in Botosani will take on this role.

Suceava, which is 45km from us, is the worst affected town in the country and has been put in complete quarantine. Just fewer than 1000 people have been diagnosed there, including over 180 medical staff. One third of the people who have died from Coronavirus in Romania, have died in Suceava. I understand that doctors from Iasi and army doctors have now been transferred to Suceava to help the situation there.

A major problem in Romania has been the tens of thousands of people returning to the country from other countries (Italy, Spain, France, Germany, UK). Gradually, borders have been closed and from tomorrow, 5th April, all flights between Romania and the UK have been cancelled.

Please could you pray:

- for those people who are working in the hospitals and in other key positions;

- for the children in state care, who aren't able to leave their apartments at all. Their carers change shifts every 12 hours and are doing a fantastic job at keeping the children safe and well entertained. I still take medication to the apartments when needed, but can no longer spend time with the children.

-for Costel and the other people who work at the GLIA Centre (a community centre which seeks to help disadvantaged people). They continue to work daily, mainly to provide food in the form of "take-away" parcels. They intend to carry on doing this for as long as possible.

-for protection over our family, particularly Costelus. We had planned to travel home for Easter but our plans have had to change. We completely understand and agree that now is not the time to be travelling. However, it is quite a strange feeling to think that the borders are now officially closed.

Many thanks for your prayers and good wishes.

We are also praying for you all, our friends and family in the UK.

Keep safe and well and we look forward to seeing you soon!