



COVID-19 in Tanguiéta (BENIN)

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This part of Africa was probably privileged because COVID-19 has not done much damage as a pandemic viral infection. Indeed, from the first announcements of the risk of the pandemic in our region, we have invested a lot to carry out preventive measures and barriers. Of course in this, we have been helped in some ways by the closure of the borders around us, see Mali, Burkina-Faso, Niger, Togo, Nigeria.

To these international barriers, we have added ours which were required from the Ministry of Health and that we even further intensified. This is how a survey sheet (Figure 1) was carried out to find out where the sick came from and whether there were any risks or not. We have set up an exam room with everything you need to protect yourself which made it possible to consult fully the patients who had big suspects of being COVID-19 carriers, fortunately, we have not had to use it more than 10 times. At the entrance to the hospital, we set up a hand-washing system where all users who of the hospital (those who come for visit or for consultation) should wash hands, even those who did not have masks available for 200 F CFA a mask, which is up to the time of writing, before entering the hospital, we must have a facial mask.

In addition to that, screening has been done and the last one just finished for a few days, no one of the nursing staff has been found positive and in any case no collaborator at the hospital showed the slightest sign of the disease, even we who were in direct contact day and night with the sick. What has protected us?

1. Surely the mercy of God but also I think the fact that the population of our region is a population totally affected and in part immune to malaria (malaria).
2. Our populations are not used to antibiotics. Fairly simple inexpensive old antibiotics are still effective in our region.

3. I have the impression that the climate, especially in the months of February, March, April, May is very bad, very high temperature with drought must to have played a role too. If this heat comes to tire us and sometimes prostrate us, perhaps it has been a barrier to the spread of the virus.
4. As our region has always been very affected by viral epidemics or bacteria, I believe that natural selection must also play its role, out of cross immunities that may have protected us until today.

Now that the barriers are starting to be lifted and the transport fairs of course expensive have started to reappear, we have to be extra careful; but there is a big "BUT". If it is true that probably we have been protected from COVID-19, this COVID-19 has caused terrible mortality and suffering for thousands of patients who, for fear of being infected with the virus, have tried to treat their illness at home or with traditional healers and they are dead. It is every day that we learn that such and such died of peritonitis, pulmonary, severe malaria etc, it is a real plague.

I believe that our region has never been fatally affected by epidemics as it has been affected this time for fear of being infected with the virus.

Let notice that the hospital of Tanguiéta, in particular pediatrics, the month of May accommodated more than 200 children in a service with 115 beds but during this pandemic period we are below 50 hospitalized children. What means that many other children died in their homes because the family was afraid of the risk of getting the virus and dying in hospital?

There are surely other very negative aspects caused by this pandemic and by the fear of this pandemic such as:

- Economic aspects: our hospital is kneeling at the moment by this that missing consultations and all that

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consultations produce make the wages at the end of the month, it's really pain full to pay the bills of drugs because the seriously ill till managed to hospital but in very complicated, miserable conditions requiring intensive care and not a penny in the pocket.

- The hospital has seen all the specialist missions that came to disappear help us and hundreds of sick people

are struggling to survive standardization that can allow their arrival without being put in quarantine.

Courage to all those who fight against this pandemic even if it is not directly against the virus.

Dr. Florent PRIULI, Hôpital Saint Jean de Dieu de Tanguiéta.



PROVINCE SAINT RICHARD PAMPURI D'AFRIQUE
HOPITAL SAINT JEAN DE DIEU
Tanguiéta-BENIN

FACT SHEET ON COVID-19

Last name..... First name

Address (neighborhoods / public square

Sex..... Telephone..... Old

Do you cough? YES NO

Do you have a fever ? YES NO

Are you vomiting ? YES NO

Do you have trouble breathing? YES NO

Do you have a sore throat? YES NO

Were you sneezing? YES NO

Asthenia? YES NO

Do you have headache? YES NO

Loss of smell and taste? YES NO

Muscle / joint pain? YES NO

Do you have diarrhea? YES NO

Conjunctivity ? YES NO

If yes, since when?

Have you or anyone you know traveled recently? YES NO

If yes, specify the country.....

Does anyone around you have a fever, flu, cough or sore throat ? YES NO

Figure 1: Fact sheet on COVID-19