

## Holguin timely working before COVID-19 strike

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Written by Departamento de Comunicación Institucional

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Dr. José Ángel Portal Miranda, Cuba's Minister of Public Health (Minsap), made a comprehensive working tour of several institutions in the municipalities of Banes and Holguín; he also held a meeting with young people from the University of Medical Sciences (UCMHO) and the Social Impact Project "A la Salud Ponle Corazón".

Accompanied by Ernesto Santiesteban Velázquez, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Party in the province, and Governor Julio César Estupiñán Rodríguez, the Minister of Health began his visit to Banes, the second municipality of this northeastern territory with the highest number of cases at the end of week 36, and with a gradual increase in the number of positive cases since week 30.

That is why Portal Miranda, after holding a meeting with the Temporary Group there, went to visit the main sites where the sick are being treated. Among them, two of the five on-call units for the care of patients with acute respiratory infections and the Isolation Center for confirmed low-risk patients set up at the Oasis Motel, with more than 55 capacities.

He also visited the Carlos Enrique Font Pupo clinical-surgical teaching hospital, with a capacity of 180 beds, and that expected to reach 200, from this center to assume territorial character in the

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confrontation with the COVID-19, for the admission of people from this municipality, in addition to Antilla, Báguanos and "Rafael Freyre".

In these places, the doctor's exchange with patients was clear and familiar, who unreservedly exposed certain dissatisfactions related to delays in the attention and admission and, in some cases, from one isolation center to another, or while waiting for the rapid test.

In this sense, Portal Miranda insisted on the speed and professionalism that should exist at the moment of classification and transfer of the patients, due to the importance of timely treatment to avoid complications.

He also recalled that there are key elements to lower transmission, morbidity and mortality, which are prevention and in this case face-to-face communication with the population is essential, so that the sick go to the health system in a timely manner, because those who arrive late can easily become complicated, especially if they have comorbidities. "In this disease we cannot waste time, we have to be timely, especially with the circulation of the Delta variant".



Another aspect in which it is necessary to gain more, said the Health

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Minister, is that the population goes to get vaccinated and, when the pediatric immunization begins, to get the parents to go with their children, to protect them.

In the municipality of Holguin, the Minister of Public Health and the highest authorities of the province participated in an moving meeting with young people from the School of Medicine and members of the Social Impact Project "A la Salud Ponle Corazón" and visited the clinical-surgical hospital Lucia Íñiguez, today the largest in the country completely dedicated to the care of patients with COVID-19 in 27 wards, with 734 beds.

At School of Medicine, the protagonists of several of the projects under development here through their experiences in the work deployed in primary health care, in the neighborhood, and others in the red zone in hospitals and isolation centers demonstrated, according to Portal Miranda, that "in Public Health we are one big family", and that the relay of today's professionals and professors is assured with these new professionals who are an example of ethics, dedication and love for the profession they embrace.