

1. CONSISTENT INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE

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The closure of schools due to the coronavirus pandemic has shaken educational life around the world. Since the pandemic's emergence and threat, many countries around the world have decided to temporarily close schools, affecting millions of students. The Department of Education in the Philippines has issued recommendations for implementing online and modular distant learning delivery of instruction. This is done to prevent students from contracting the sickness. As schools reopen, it is critical to take precautions both inside and outside the classroom to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

School reopening for face-to-face contacts must be carefully organized in stages to protect the safety of students, teachers, and school employees, particularly after physical separation. The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a checklist to aid in the reopening of schools and preparation for the possible resurgence of COVID-19. The checklist is aligned with, and builds on, existing COVID-19-related WHO guidelines and is structured around protective measures related to hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette, followed by physical separation, mask use in schools, environmental cleaning, and ventilation, and following procedures for isolating all people with symptoms.' The checklist assists policymakers and school officials in improving compliance and during the pandemic, there was strict adherence to public health regulations.

The guideline establishes standards for school reopening readiness. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the health guidelines will provide direction that will help the school to conduct operations in a safer and more effective manner. The goal is to offer a rational

and practical approach for functioning within the pandemic environment, not to eliminate all potential dangers.

Maintaining space between yourself and others is a best practice and one of the most effective tools for avoiding COVID-19 exposure. People can spread the virus even if they are not sick or are unaware that they are sick, so it is critical to keep a physical distance from others even if they don't show symptoms, whenever possible. Limiting COVID-19 exposure and slowing its spread requires physical separation. Masks can also help to stop the transmission of certain illnesses. Wearing a mask will also help reduce the number of symptomatic respiratory illnesses in children. And one of the most important steps people can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to wash their hands frequently. Handwashing should be done after touching something in a public place, using the restroom, before eating, and touching or blowing one's nose. You should be quarantined if you come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19. In conclusion, school health protocols for face-to-face classes must be carefully planned in accordance with national and international guidelines to ensure that students are safe.

Still, face-to-face classes are still required for education. Distance learning modes cannot completely replace the social side of learning, where students can engage with their teacher and classmates. Students self-learning abilities are uneven. Household resources to assist children in the learning process are also uneven, influenced by household income, education of household members, internet access, the number of children in the household who require assistance, and the work situation of household members. Learners who find it challenging to learn on their own and who lack home capacity for instructional help will be left behind if teachers do not provide more consistent instructional guidance.

References:

Alfano, V. (2021). The Effects of School Closures on COVID-19: A Cross-Country Panel Analysis.