

## EDUCATION AMIDST PANDEMIC

by:

**Raquel I. Riñon**

*Teacher II, Pantalan Luma Elementary School*

If there is a definitive word for this year, it would be COVID-19. No one is certain when this will end, as countries all over the world face a pandemic in a hundred years after the Spanish Flu outbreak.

But what is COVID-19, really? Here is a primer on the disease that kept us in the comfort of our homes for months.

### THE DISEASE

World Health Organization defines COVID-19 or Corona Virus Disease 2019 as an “infectious disease caused by the newly discovered [human] coronavirus” in Wuhan, China in late 2019. Symptoms include fever, dry cough, body pains, and sore throat. In most cases, it takes up to 5 up to 7 days until symptoms manifest on a person. Although the disease is categorized as highly communicable as it is contracted via droplets, experts disagree that the coronavirus is airborne, after conducting a research on more than 70 thousand patients in China with no reports of airborne transmission.

### AFFECTING EDUCATION

The re-opening of classes amid the pandemic has been the topic of many discussions. Many are urging the education system to delay this school year so that no student is left behind while a majority of parents are still eager to find out how virtual learning is actually working.

School officials and administrators were also guided to coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for additional instructions on the academic year culmination guidelines and other related matters.

Medical experts and authorities still advised residents to practice social distancing, proper hand washing, and the wearing of face masks.

*References:*

Handog, M. C. (2020, August 17). The pandemic is reshaping education, here's how the Philippines is coping. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/brandrap/tech-and-innovation/coronavirus-reshaping-distance-learning-education-philippines/>