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RETURNING TO ONSITE LEARNING: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO HOLISTIC HEALTH MEASURES

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As the COVID cases continue to decline, schools and educational institutions are facing the challenge of safely returning to onsite learning. While traditional health measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing are important in preventing the spread of the virus, it is also important to consider the holistic health of students and staff as they transition back to onsite learning.

One key aspect of holistic health is mental wellness. The pandemic has brought about a lot of stress and uncertainty, and students and staff may be struggling with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. It is important to provide support and resources for mental health such as counseling services and support groups. It is also important to create a supportive and inclusive school culture where students and staff feel comfortable seeking help and talking about mental health.

Physical health is also crucial in ensuring a safe return to onsite learning. Regular testing and contact tracing can help to identify and isolate cases of COVID-19, but it is also important to focus on overall physical health. This includes promoting healthy habits such as regular exercise, healthy eating, and adequate sleep. It is also important to ensure that students and staff have access to basic healthcare services such as vaccinations and primary care.

In addition, it is important to consider the social and emotional well-being of students and staff as they return to onsite learning. The pandemic has greatly impacted social interactions, and students may be struggling to reconnect with peers and teachers. It is important to provide opportunities for students to socialize and build relationships



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in a safe and controlled environment. Additionally, it is important to provide support for students and staff who may be experiencing isolation and loneliness.

Another important aspect of holistic health is spiritual well-being. This can include providing students and staff with opportunities to explore their spiritual beliefs, as well as providing support for those who may be struggling with their faith or spirituality.

Finally, it is important to consider the environmental health of the school and the surrounding community. This includes ensuring that the school is clean and well-ventilated, as well as promoting sustainable practices such as recycling and conservation.

References:

UNICEF. (2022, September 20). Reopening schools safely in the Philippines. unicef.org. https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reopening-schools-safely

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