



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

2020

UP SYSTEM REPORT

ON COVID19-RELATED ACTIVITIES

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Involvement of CUs in COVID19-related Research/Technology/Extension Activities

CUs Assist the General Public on COVID-19 non-medical concerns

While the initiatives of various health-related units and offices can address the medical and technical concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, other units have lent their expertise to address other, yet equally important, COVID-related problems. With the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), the UP College of Law started an initiative that aims to offer legal assistance and advice to those who may need it, and in exceptional cases, may even provide legal representation to individuals and sectors affected by the application and enforcement of RA 11469. On a similar note, the UP College of Mass Communication, through its team of students and faculty, has created a fact-checking initiative that aims to assist the general public filter information, and in effect, help curb the spread of false information. Through these initiatives, the general public is better equipped with the necessary information that they may need, and are, in effect, empowered.

The College of Social Sciences and Philosophy has opened its doors to persons suspected of COVID-19 and shall serve as an isolation area for suspected and probable cases of persons with COVID-19. The lobby and the classrooms on the first floor have been identified for this purpose, with the possible inclusion of classrooms on the second and third floors.

CUs Produce Webinars and IEC Materials

With the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine, online platforms were utilized by CUs in order to share relevant information through online classes, information dashboards and newsletters. UP Los Baños' initiative compiled various outputs regarding COVID-19 projections, including infections and fatalities in order to come up with the Initial COVID-19 Philippine Provincial Estimates and Projections. This may be useful for LGUs and the national

government as they craft policies that aim to curb the spread of COVID-19. Following the shift to alternative modes of teaching and learning, the UP Open University, continues to undertake various online classes for teachers in order to assist them as they transition to online/remote mode teaching. Lastly, as the leading institution in the field of medicine and public health, UP Manila has led various initiatives and efforts in order to address the pandemic. Given its invaluable contribution in helping curb the spread of the disease and in its contribution in COVID-19 related research, the CU has released a COVID-19 special edition of the newsletter Healthscape in order to inform the general public of the different initiatives that the CU has undertaken.

Sports Science and Physical Education students of UP College of Human Kinetics have led the, Frontline Fitness, a series of online classes that aim to build strength and fitness. All proceeds will be given to Kaya Natin Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership, which works with the Office of the Vice President Leni Robredo.

CU Involvement in COVID19-related Research/Technology in the Development or Call for Donation Phase

UP Manila led a blood drive appealing to COVID-19 survivors, coupled with a comprehensive set of infographics that share important information about convalescent plasma, the blood component extracted from the blood of the survivors. The infographic has tackled the potential use of the convalescent plasma in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.



Photo 1: UP, Magbubunga Tayo and UP Danay prioritizes relief operations for students and communities

Other on-going initiatives include various donation drives and fund campaigns that aim to supply the beneficiaries with their needs, particularly the need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). UP Lakan (UP Diliman) and UP Beta Sigma Fraternity (UP Los Baños) have called for PPE donations while UP-PGH requested for bikes for the health care workers of UP-PGH. UP Visayas, through its UP, *Magbubunga Tayo!* Campaign took a more general approach as it aimed to focus the donations on the needs of the members of the UPV internal and external communities who are seriously affected by the enhanced community quarantine. Students have also been at the forefront of initiating various project that aim to provide various forms of support for front liners.

Involvement of CUs in COVID19-Related Coping Mechanisms (for students, faculty, researchers, staff, and community/residents)

Provision for Food and Transportation



Photo 2: DTRI distributes fresh milk to stranded dormers on campus

Owing to its vast research on agriculture, food science and technology, UP Los Baños led various initiatives that helped provide food, drinks and food sources to stranded dormers in campus. Various units such as the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) and Dairy Training and Research Institute (DTRI) have distributed bottled calamansi juice and fresh milk, respectively, to students. The Institute of Plant Breeding-National Seed Foundation, on the other hand, distributed seeds and seedlings for pakbet mix vegetables, pechay, lettuce, and upland

kangkong to UPLB constituents, students and nearby communities. Its primary food provision program, the Lingap Adopt-A-Dormer Donation Program, however, continues to provide food needs, vitamins, and hygiene kits for ECQ-affected students who are living in UPLB-administered and other dormitories inside the campus. Aside from provision for food, UP Los Baños, through its Office of Student Affairs, has also led a transportation provision initiative to help stranded students go home safely. The most recent batch included trips to Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon and Albay.

Provision for Webinars and IEC Materials

Various information, education and communication (IEC) materials were released by the units and offices of the different CUs that shed light on a diversity of COVID-related issues and concerns. The Philippine Genome Center has summarized for the public the steps of the COVID-19 testing process, while UP Manila presented the Philhealth coverage for COVID-19 patients.

The Department of Political Science lent its expertise in clarifying the key provisions of the *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act of 2020* in order to encourage a wider and more popular discussion of the current political and social issues surrounding the pandemic and the government's response. On a similar note, the Department of Geography also shared an array of materials and collection of articles, research, and books, on geography studies about infectious diseases. In order to help the general public, understand relevant COVID-19 advisories and health tips, UP-PGH has produced various publicity materials which were released through the Bayanihan Na! Webpage and the official UP-PGH Facebook page.

Provision for Psycho-Social Support

Utilizing available online platforms, UP Los Baños and UP Visayas have undertaken initiatives to provide psychosocial support for their constituents. Los Baños has opened, *OCG Cares' Kumustahan*, an online consultation that aims to assist students with psychosocial needs during the ECQ. Visayas has utilized art as a form of psychosocial support program through the *Pasundayag Paghilum ha Panahon han Covid-19*, a healing musical show to celebrate the National Literature Month amid Covid-19 pandemic. The UP Manila Chorale did a tribute for frontliners who have been working round the clock to battle COVID-19.