



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

2020

# **UP SYSTEM REPORT**

ON COVID19-RELATED ACTIVITIES

**APRIL 6-15**



*Written on April 17, 2020*

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

### **Provision of technical assistance and policy recommendations to the government**

To aid decision-making on quarantine policy, the UP COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team published its recommendations to the national government, including its analyses of current data trends and models on the spread of the virus. UP Mindanao through its Interdisciplinary Applied Modeling laboratory, offered Davao its recommendations on the conduct of quarantine in the city.

The Commission on Higher Education tapped UP Manila College of Public Health Dean Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr. to lead the public health experts' group which will ensure that SUCs and LGUs are conforming and complying with proper health guidelines on the use of school facilities as quarantine centers or Community Isolation Units (CIUs). Meanwhile, the UP Manila-National Institutes of Health has collaborated with the Ateneo de Manila University and DOH to build FASSSTER (Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler) to help provide forecasts of the spread of COVID-19.

### **Involvement of CUs in COVID-19 testing and research**

UP units have risen to the challenge of testing for COVID-19, given the lack of facilities in the country. The Philippine Genome Center of UP Visayas continues to aid regional testing centers, training them on the use of PCR equipment, while UP Los Baños has designed a COVID-19 sampling booth that may be used to take swab samples of persons under investigation. UP Los Baños is also poised to serve as a subnational COVID-19 Testing Center and diagnostic laboratory once its Biosafety Level 2 laboratories are accredited. UP Mindanao is currently in the talks of building a COVID-19 testing center in Tagum to supplement testing done by the Southern Philippines Medical Center. In UP Manila, three COVID-19 survivors donated convalescent plasma for a study on antibodies present in the fluid.



*(UP does research on COVID-19 testing and assists health facilities in conducting the tests. Photos are from the UP-PGH, UP Visayas, and UP Los Baños Facebook pages.)*

### **CUs Develop Apps to address COVID-19 concerns**

In the era of mobile technology, applications serve to make information and services accessible. Yani is the COVID-19 Chatbot developed by the UP COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team in honor of heroes in the fight against the virus. Based on artificial intelligence, Yani is ready to help find nearest hospitals, psychosocial support services, and policy information. Meanwhile, technology developers in UP Cebu and UP Diliman build apps and dashboards that aid the general public and local government units to make informed decisions. The UP Cebu Center for Environmental Informatics developed CoVcheck, a public health and monitoring tool that includes heat maps of confirmed and active cases in Cebu City. UP-PGH, in collaboration with UP Diliman, launched the e-dalaw system/Tele-Kumusta service to allow confined patients to talk with their loved ones. An incubated technology developer in UP Diliman built the Drive Groceries app that offers grocery delivery services.

### **Dissemination of IEC Materials, Conduct of Webinars, and Provision of Remote Services**

Information dissemination projects such as UP Diliman's #LanguageWarriorsPH and SOCIO SPEAKS, UP Manila's Let's Get Ptkal and infographics by the UP-PGH Bayanihan Na! COVID-19 Operations Center, UP Open University's Open UP Connect Blog and UPOU Networks, and UP Visayas' Sagip Pangisdaan Program provide timely and accurate learning materials for the general public.

UP Manila continues to hold webinars, such as the NTCBB: 2nd Online Biosafety Education and Awareness Training which runs from April 14 to May 14, while the DILG has accredited UP Open University's Massive Open Online Course on Interlocal Cooperation.

Various UP units have also launched innovative ways for the public to access services that previously require physical interaction. USAP TAYO! is the free online speech pathology consultation service of UPM College of Allied Medical Professions. UP Diliman has made nutrition and dietary consultations available online through Padayon ND.

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

From the very beginning of the community quarantine, UP units have ensured that stranded dormers would be provided for. UP Baguio, UP Diliman, UP Los Baños, and UP Cebu continue to support stranded dormers by giving them food provisions. UP Los Baños' Oplan Kawingan for off-campus dormers greatly benefits from the donations of Chooks-to-Go, Jollibee Foods Corporation, ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, and local food providers, and its Oplan Hatid continues to facilitate the transportation of students to their hometowns. Another UPLB operation, Oplan Damayan, donated tons of assorted vegetables from Benguet to various beneficiaries in Los Baños. UP Diliman student organizations raise funds for food donation drives to support surrounding communities, while a volunteer group ensured that campus pets would not go hungry too.



*(UP Los Baños partners with food providers to ensure that students don't miss a meal. The Oplan Hatid continues to expand destinations as the UPLB administration Works with LGUs. Photos are taken from the UPLB Facebook page.)*





*(CAPWA UP was able to feed UP Diliman's campus pets with the help of the UPD administration and private donors. Photos are from CAPWA UP's Facebook Page.)*

The quarantine poses health risks for everyone. To help constituents cope during this time, UP units launched psychosocial support services. The UP Diliman College of Social Work and Community Development Psychosocial Committee created a dedicated Facebook Page that shares resources on mental health; UP Mindanao Office of Student Affairs offered free psychosocial support services to students and staff in partnership with medical institutions; and UP Open University faculty publishes tips to maintain psychosocial health during quarantine. UP Diliman's College of Education posted a video on holistic wellbeing while on quarantine and the Diliman Information office shared self-care tips while on quarantine.