



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

2020

UP SYSTEM REPORT

ON COVID19-RELATED ACTIVITIES

MAY 4-11



Written on May 14, 2020

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

Fora/Webinars and Online Resources for the General Public

Webinars and fora organized during this period include informative and engaging discussions by UP Manila and the UP System on treatment landscapes of COVID-19 and other diseases like cancer and diabetes; updates and prospects for the new normal for the higher education spearheaded by the UP Los Baños Graduate School; and a workshop on the use of visual arts for mental health organized by the UP Los Baños Department of Human and Family Development Studies. Learning materials on specialized topics have also been made available in different platforms. The UP Open University published resources on e-commerce and course materials of its Master of Public Management program, the UP Visayas College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences concludes its infoserries on preservation of seafood, and UP Los Baños published a children's e-book to help them understand the idea of quarantine.

Policy recommendations and COVID-related research

In anticipation of the government policy on community quarantine after May 15, several UP units published research and policy recommendations on the conduct of quarantine and other post-ECQ activities. The UP Pandemic Response Team, with crucial input in terms of data projections from the UP Diliman School of Statistics, UP Visayas, and the UPV Tacloban College, outlined recommendations that would help control the contagion on the national and local levels. UP Diliman experts also projected 24,000 cases and 1,700 deaths by June if the ECQ is prematurely relaxed. Air quality will worsen too, based on the nitrogen dioxide projections done by UP scientists, if vehicles return to the streets and factories resume normal operations.

Director Aragonés of the UP Diliman Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology and UP Mindanao experts (in their research on host-specificity of coronavirus strains in bats)

concur that limiting wildlife-human interface by preserving natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats could help stop the spread of harmful pathogens.

UP Manila experts published COVID-19 research in a special issue of *Acta Medica Philippina* and drew telemedicine guidelines for use of Philippine physicians, following the urgent need to continue treatment and consultations remotely. UP Cebu Center for Environmental Informatics published a story map documenting the events from the time when the first COVID-19 case in Cebu was reported; and the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies published policy briefs and blogs on food security and support for MSMEs in the time of a pandemic.

Accreditation of COVID-19 Testing Centers and Quarantine Facilities

Three UP facilities, the UP Manila-National Institutes of Health, UP-PGH Molecular Laboratory, and the Philippine Genome Center, have been accredited by the Department of Health to serve as COVID-19 testing centers. In UP Diliman, Palma Hall became 'Kanlungang Palma' when it opened its doors last May 4 to confirmed COVID-19 cases in Quezon City that need to be quarantined.

Production and Fabrication of Equipment

Fabrication teams in UP's COVID-19 task forces are committed in meeting the growing demand for personal protective equipments (PPEs) and hospital equipment amidst low market supply. UP Los Baños constructs testing booths, intubation boxes, decontamination chambers, and ventilator parts for donation to hospitals and joins UP Cebu FabLab and UP Visayas in using 3D printing technology to produce face shields that have been distributed to health facilities or turned over to the local government. Meanwhile, UP Manila and UP Diliman experts are working on disinfection devices for N95 respirators that will extend their use should supplies dwindle.



The PPEs and hospital equipment that UP teams fabricate are being donated to hospitals for our frontliners. Photos are taken from the UP Los Baños and UP Visayas Facebook pages.)

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

The UP community continues to embody compassion as it looks out for those who have been severely affected by the pandemic and other disasters. UP Diliman athletic teams and a volunteer group raised funds to buy rice and vegetable packs for on-campus residents and stranded construction workers.



(The UP community always lends its hand to help our frontliners and on-campus residents. Photos are taken from the UP Diliman and COVID-19 Response Volunteers Facebook Pages.)

UP Visayas distributed fresh produce to its security and housekeeping personnel and clothing to a community ravaged by fire in Miagao. UP Los Baños continues to help stranded students in off-campus housing through its Oplan Kawingan, while its College of Agriculture and Food Science donated milk and calamansi juice to students and frontliners. UP Baguio committed to help the local cultural community by donating proceeds of the Apunan, a bazaar held last year.

Organizations also helped supply PPEs to hospitals, with the UP Manila College of Allied Medical Professions donating to the Lung Center of the Philippines and the Beta Epsilon Fraternity donating PPEs to the Philippine General Hospital.



(PPE donations go a long way in helping our frontliners combat COVID-19. Photos are taken from the UPM CAMP Foundation and Beta Epsilon Fraternity.)

Help is likewise extended to campus pets, with a volunteer group raising funds to purchase pet food for UP Diliman campus pets and the UP Baguio Animal Welfare Committee regularly feeding the campus' feline residents. These efforts are done with the support of the University administration and private donors.



(Campus pets need not worry about their food as volunteers continue to look out for them during the pandemic. Photos are from CAPWA UP and UP Baguio Facebook pages.)

Various UP units continue to disseminate valuable information through advisories and infographics. UP Manila issued advisories on the rational use of N95 masks and admission of emergency cases, updates on supplies of PPEs, celebratory posters for patients who have recovered, salute for frontliners, daily COVID-19 case reports, and infographics on food safety;

while UP Diliman student organizations published tips on staying safe in social media, simple exercise routines, and an infographic about child domestic violence.

Both UP Los Baños and UP Visayas have facilitated the transport of students back to their hometowns. This is done in cooperation with the local governments of the students' provinces.



(Stranded dormers are finally on their way home as CUs facilitate their safe transportation. Photo taken from UP Visayas and UP Los Baños Facebook Pages.)

To help community members cope, UP Diliman forms a chat service for survivors of gender-based violence and individuals who need reproductive health advice while the UP-PGH Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine established a psychosocial support system for frontliners.

UP deeply mourns its fallen frontliners in its memorial tribute created by TVUP. To share messages of hope amidst trying times and uplift the hearts of Filipinos, the UP Symphony Orchestra, UP Concert Chorus, and other performing groups gave stirring virtual performances.

Theatrical productions such as AGRA, which tackles the relevance of agriculture in ensuring food security, and Lolo Doc, a monovlog written by UP Los Baños professor Layeta Bucoy, have also been uploaded in Youtube to entertain and inform the public. The UP Diliman College of Arts and Letters uploaded Dulaang UP productions to raise help for college personnel and student dormers.