



# UP SYSTEM REPORT

ON COVID19-RELATED ACTIVITIES



**MAY 20-31**



Written on June 2, 2020

## **Involvement of Constituent Universities (CUs) in COVID19-related Research/Technology/Extension Activities**

### **Non-COVID-19 medical consultations across CUs**

To ensure that patients and medical staff are safe from COVID-19 while dealing with other medical concerns that are non-COVID-19 related, UP-PGH continues its *Tele-ophthalmology project* for outpatients with ophthalmology concerns. Guidelines on how patients can make appointments for the other departments were also released. Likewise, the UP Los Baños (UPLB) University Health Service will require prior appointment under the new mechanisms for OPD consultations.

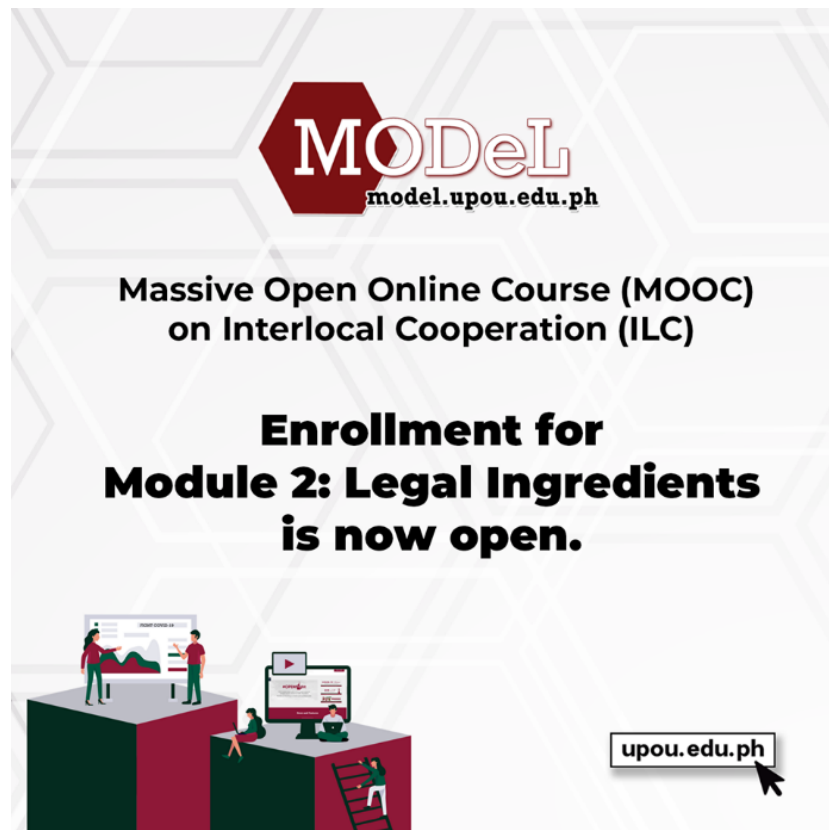
### **Direct participation in COVID-19 testing**

UPLB is already in the final stages of COVID-19 laboratory accreditation. By virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement signed last May 19 with Governor Jubahib, Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon, Davao Regional Medical Center (DRMC) Chief Dr. Bryan Dalid, and Maer Summit Konstrukt Company (MSKC) CEO Diego Luis Suelto, UP Mindanao Chancellor Larry Digal committed the provision of technical assistance to the COVID-19 testing facility that will be located in the Davao Regional Medical Center.

### **CU information dissemination and knowledge-building**

Keeping the public informed on matters related to COVID-19 is one of the valuable public service efforts being rendered by UP Baguio (UPB). With some SUCs and HEIs in their region, UPB developed a website that features the initiatives of these different universities in fighting COVID-19. UP Open University (UPOU) opened another module on Massive Open Online Course on Interlocal Cooperation. Several members of the faculty from the different CUs produced articles that assess and explain COVID-related issues and experiences. Dr. Gideon Lasco of UP Diliman (UPD) wrote an article about local economies during the pandemic in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Asst. Prof. Botor of the UPLB Department of Human and Family Development Studies explained positivity in time of a pandemic, UPM Asst. Prof. Posadas, together with members of a community

in Quezon City, wrote another article regarding their experiences with COVID-19, and UP-PGH doctors wrote about the experience of the UP-PGH neurosurgical center in the delivery of service and training during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the Philippine Genome Center-Visayas conducted a face-to-face training on biosafety and biosecurity to medical personnel in Iloilo, while the Philippine Genome Center-Mindanao trained personnel that will be assigned to the PCR laboratories.



*(Massive Open Online Course on Interlocal Cooperation publicity material from UP Open University Facebook page)*

UP System, UPD, UP Manila (UPM), UPOU, UPLB, UPC, and UPV used online platforms like Zoom to conduct webinars, and YouTube and Facebook to upload their live videos containing health and other information related to COVID-19. The UP System aired the 5th and 6th installments of its webinar series with DOH, which tackled how the San Lazaro Hospital dealt with other infectious diseases in time of COVID-19, and hospital personnel safety. For other non-health but COVID-related discussions, UP CIFAL conducted a webinar about the Gulf countries' repatriation measures and the impact of the pandemic to the future of labor migration. Professors



from the UPD School of Library and Information Studies shared their discussion about the social amelioration card and quarantine pass via Youtube.

UPM featured an episode about health as a right of individuals in YouTube, and conducted webinars that include the basics of telemedicine, how UPM personnel can protect themselves while protecting others, and the role of nurses in COVID-19. UPOU discussed how individuals can capacitate themselves in the new normal live via Youtube; while UPLB presented another webinar on the role of biotechnology in pandemics. UPC's webinar, on the other hand, discussed Cebu City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessons learned in this crisis. UPV Tacloban presented a webinar on mental health concerns in the time of COVID-19 as part of its founding anniversary projects.

Mainstream media like radio, was also utilized by the CUs in disseminating information. UPM Chancellor Padilla was interviewed in the radio program Pinoy Scientist to discuss the efforts of UPM in fighting COVID-19; UPD DZUP 1602 continuously airs special coverages on the initiatives of the different UP CUs regarding COVID-19; and UPV professors discussed mental health issues and concerns during the pandemic through DYUP 102.7 FM.

## **Constituent Universities' (CUs) Involvement in COVID19-related Research/Technology in the Development or Call for Donation Phase**

UP CUs conducted different donation drives to help those in need during these difficult times. UPLB and UPM conducted blood donation drives; UPD units, student organization, and athletic teams conducted donation drives and fundraising campaigns to help families, employees, and students who need financial assistance; and UPV Tacloban College is calling for cash donations to aid their students with their online education.

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

To help the UP community cope with COVID-19, IEC materials, transportation, psychological support activities, PPEs, and work guidelines were developed by the different UP CUs.

UP-PGH, through the Bayanihan Na! webpage and through the official UP-PGH Facebook page, has produced various publicity materials related to COVID-19 to help the general public understand COVID-19 and its effects. UPC shared infographics of its current efforts for COVID-19; and the UPD College of Human Economics also published infographics about face masks, its uses, and how the public can create their own PPEs.

UPB, UPV, and UPLB have assured their students that they will be able to go home to their families after being stranded for a few months. They were able to transport and ferry their students in their hometowns in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

As mental health is something that should not be taken lightly in this time of crisis, UPD, UPLB, UPV, and UPC crafted projects that aim to promote the mental health of the UP community and the general public. UPD created a platform for students to share their experiences and mental health concerns online. UPC is also offering free online tele-counseling services for its students. UPLB conducted a webinar series organized by the Office of Counseling and Guidance, and discussed how the public can remain hopeful in times of difficulties. On the other hand, UPV created a beautiful and calming video titled *UPV Hopes and Heals* that featured the UPV campus.

PPEs are still in high demand that UPD, UPLB, UPV, and UPM are continuously helping in their production to help frontliners in the Philippines become protected as they protect others. UPD has called for volunteers to make face shields. UPLB designed a shield for women in labor to protect those assisting in childbirth, the child, and the mother. It also accepted a donation of medical supplies from De La Salle Philippines. UPV is also continuously creating face shields and

alcohol for frontliners; while the UPV Tacloban Batch '83 has donated swab booths to DOH. Lastly, UPM doctors and UPD engineers secured funding from DOST for their sanitation booth project for frontliners.

In the shift to GCQ starting June 1, UP CUs will adopt alternative work arrangements that will ensure continuous service to the public while keeping their employees safe and protected.



(UP Baguio employees as they enter the campus. Photo from UP Baguio Facebook page)