



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

ON COVID19-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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Written by Jeremi Elaijah M. Barretto
UP Padayon Public Service Office

Webinars and Training Programs and Online Assistance

The University continued to stage various seminars, trainings, and fora using online platforms to discuss a wide range of issues and concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now on its twentieth and twenty-first installment, STOP COVID DEATHS: VIRTUAL GRAND ROUNDS had been at the forefront of examining unique cases and experiences of healthcare workers during the pandemic. The most recent installments featured the effect of convalescent plasma therapy to a three-year old child with acute lymphocytic leukemia who became COVID-positive, and the potential complications of COVID-19 in the case of a patient with a history of Crohn's disease and showed symptoms of gastric distress and partial gut obstruction. Another webinar, entitled Epilepsy Lay Forum, focused on the management of patients with epilepsy in the time of pandemic.



Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement between UP Manila and the British Embassy Manila and launching of "Public Health in Time of COVID-19 and the New Normal: A UK BHP/UP CPH Webinar Series for Public Health Workers"

Training programs and webinars that tackled the needs of healthcare workers were also organized by the different Constituent Universities. UP Visayas and UP Mindanao have initiated training programs on molecular techniques (RNA Extraction and rRT-PCR) and procedures used in SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics, respectively. UP Manila recently secured a partnership with the British Embassy for a webinar series entitled, *Public Health in Time of COVID-19 and the New Normal: A UK BHP/UP CPH Webinar Series for Public Health Workers*. The University also became a partner of the Management Association of the Philippines in organizing the *18th Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) International CEO WebCon 2020: A*

Whole New World: Reigniting the Stalled Global Economy. The WebCon jumpstarted critical conversation and ignited ideas on how businesses could transform in response to the changes in the business landscape.



Training on Molecular Techniques (RNA Extraction and rRT-PCR) for West Visayas State University Medical Center COVID-19 Testing Laboratory Team.

On the other hand, the need for psychosocial support to safeguard mental health were also highlighted in several webinars. In *Celebrate Life 2020: Charting, Conquering & Creating a Better Normal*, UP Diliman Office of Counseling and Guidance directed discussions on chartering the uncertainties, mapping and establishing connections, and being able to find patterns amidst the adversities of the health crisis for a better normal. UP Baguio organized a *Stress Management Webinar* for teachers of Baguio City National High School-Hillside Annex. UP Open University launched the *OSA Psychosocial Online Support Hub*, an online initiative that aims to extend assistance to students dealing with psychosocial concerns.

Through the webinar entitled *Aggie Ps Talk: Pagkain at Pangkabuhayan sa Panahon ng Pandemya*, UP Los Baños shared information on meat processing and white cheese making.

Remote Learning Assistance

UP Open University, the leading distance learning education institution in the country, had organized various training programs on remote learning and made learning resources available for teachers. UPOU partnered with the Commission on Higher Education in delivering the webinar entitled,

Training on Flexible Teaching and Learning: The Seamless Shift from Face-to-Face to Distance Education Mode of Instruction. It also organized other webinars that focused on fostering online and remote classroom communities of inquiry (*Edu-Hack: Navigating A Turbulent Educational Landscape [Episode 13]*), the experiences of alternative learning system (*Edu-Hack: Navigating A Turbulent Educational Landscape [Episode 14]*), and knowledge and skills required in writing theses and dissertations (*FICS Chats [Episode 2]*). UP Diliman, on the other hand, collated various online trainings and programs that were developed and organized by other local and international agencies and learning institutions that may be useful for its employees.

Following the official opening of classes across UP System and the online welcome assemblies for Freshies, or the new batch of *e-Skolar* ng Bayan as UP Baguio calls them, the different Constituent Universities like UP Manila, UP Visayas, UP Mindanao and UP Baguio had introduced various short courses and orientations on remote learning for students. They served to guide the new students on the conduct of remote learning for the current academic year and ensure a seamless shift to the new system. UP Diliman Learning Resource Center organized a *Bridge Program for Freshies* to prepare them for undergraduate courses like Math and English. UP Mindanao School of Management organized a *Bridge Program for Master of Management Students* to ensure an ease of transition into the program.

COVID-related Research, Data, and Projections

UP experts continued to work tirelessly in delivering timely, relevant, and crucial research about COVID-19. The UP COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team, the OCTA Research Team, UP Mindanao Interdisciplinary Applied Modelling laboratory (IAM lab), and the UP Baguio Department of Mathematics and Computer Science continued to provide data analyses and recommendations on how the Philippines may flatten the curve. They also released data on the possible number of COVID-19 cases expected at a certain time, which may be used by the national government and local government units for policymaking and implementation.

An article entitled, "*Let's get real about these coronavirus tests*", was also written by Dr. Edsel Maurice Salvana, Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the National Institutes of Health, where he discussed COVID testing and the most optimal test that would yield the best diagnosis of the virus.

UP Open University Ugnayan ng Pahinungod also initiated a survey to document and gather data on their students' volunteer activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On-Going Donation Drives Across CUs and Alumni Support

Following the launch of the Kaagapay sa Pag-aaral ng Iskolar ng Bayan, a program that aims to raise funds to provide financially challenged students with equipment and Internet connectivity for their remote learning, CUs have also launched their own local campaigns. UP Cebu pitched *Abag sa Pagtungha*, as UP Baguio started its *Kaagapay UP Baguio*. Both programs aim to tap support for the remote learning needs of their financially challenged students. UP Open University's *UPOU-Kaagapay+* also kicked off to address the unique needs of the UPOU students for remote learning.



Donation of 10 complete sets of PPR and 11 hoods to West Visayas State University.

Aside from the Kaagapay campaigns, UP Baguio also launched *Kindness is Contagious: FUNdemic Covers for a Cause* and *CRESCENDO: Healing in Harmony* which are online benefit concerts organized for UP Baguio students who need computers and Internet access.

UP alumni were also involved in the provision of remote learning needs for UP students. A group of alumni has offered a remote learning space in their business establishment called *The Hatch Hub* in Quezon City. Through #KaagapayUP, Hatch Hub was set to become one of the University's partner organizations where students can use the space and its services for their online classes.

UP Rural High School Class '95 initiated the *Tulong KKK*, a three-pronged approach to help UPLB students. The project aimed to assist the UPLB students with free Internet connectivity through Tulong Konek, gadgets through Tulong Kompyuter, and wellness support through Tulong Kagalingan.

UP IAmUPhi and UP Alumni Association likewise donated ten (10) complete sets of Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) and 11 hoods to the West Visayas State University.