



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA HEALTHSCAPE

SPECIAL COVID-19 ISSUE

NO. 29

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FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Our dear University of the Philippines is 113 years old! The pandemic has caused us to celebrate this momentous occasion in a subdued way, but our kickoff activity of illuminating the oblation was indeed poignant and steeped in meaning. For more than a century, UP has been offering itself to the nation and shining its light like a beacon of hope, which the oblation symbolizes. This selfless service to the country has been on full display in our campus as we take the lead in grappling with the virus. Our innovations in the field of education and burgeoning researches, especially into this pandemic, are rays of optimism in the delivery of excellent training and in envisioning an end to this scourge.

This celebration was highlighted by a talk on UP Manila's expanding role in this pandemic given by Professor Emeritus Dr. Nina Gloriani. Finally, a fitting salutation to UP Manila's retirees capped this weeklong commemoration. The successes that our community has gathered through the years, we owe to these men and women of intelligence, dedication, and kindness.

We mark the first year anniversary of the much-loved and highly educational TVUP's *Stop COVID Deaths* webinar series. The program commenced with a tribute to our fallen healthcare comrades during the pandemic and this was followed by Dr. Anselmo Tronco who spoke on ways to deal with adversity. Dr. Jonas Del Rosario and singer Ardie Lopez also talked about their very personal experiences. These proceedings put a befitting exclamation point to the past year of the pandemic while equipping the listeners with strength for the ongoing struggle.

I would like to commend the College of Public Health for its many consequential initiatives and collaborations to cover many aspects of this pandemic. In this issue, we feature two — forum on public health higher education and online course on One Health in the Philippines. Another college that will share the results of their yearlong project is the College of Pharmacy. Their UCP COVID-19 Pandemic Telepharmacy was very helpful to the public and their student pharmacists especially during the lockdown periods.

Overall, at this juncture in time of the pandemic, we have so much to be thankful for. The commemorations were simple yet elegant and eloquent, strategic programs are reaping rewards, and more importantly, people are given hope. With the blessings of the Almighty, our family, UP Manila, is infused with renewed vigor, inspiration, and optimism for the best days ahead!

UP's evolving role tackled at celebration of its 113th founding year



As dusk descended, multi-colored lights bathed the Oblation in front of PGH, the UP's iconic symbol of offering to the nation. The lighting happened on June 21, 2021 and was repeated a few days thereafter.

UP Manila's celebration of the 113th founding year of its mother university, the University of the Philippines, kicked off that day when the oblation was cloaked with predominantly UP colors of maroon and green. Themed "*#UP@113: Tugon sa Hamon ng Panahon: Unibersidad ng Pilipinas*," the celebration was marked with a lecture on the evolving role of UP in the face of growing challenges, a recognition program for retirees (*see separate article*), and a variety-game show.

At the virtual program for the lighting ceremony, UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla stated that the lighting of the oblation is symbolic of the role the university has played in its more than a century of existence and into the future. It represents the University of the Philippines' mission of sharing the fruits of knowledge with the rest of the nation and shedding light where it is darkest; and reflecting on how we can all

contribute to our beloved university so we can continue to share the light of knowledge with our countrymen and the rest of the world.

Foundation lecture

The lecture on UP's expanding role was delivered by College of Public Health Professor Emeritus and Department of Science and Technology's Vaccine Expert Panel Head Dr. Nina Gloriani.

In her lecture, she addressed several key points including: (1) the revisiting of the UP Charter of 2008 (RA 9500) which stipulates a revitalized mandate for UP as "the national university" leading in graduate education, research, public service, and regional and global networks; (2) the evolution of UP over the past century and its direction for future undertakings; (3) UP being reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic in various aspects (i.e. in terms of academic, social, and economic consequences); and (4) the importance, challenges, and opportunities of convergent education and efforts in managing this unprecedented global health crisis. She took the US National Science Foundation's

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Retirees grateful to UP, urged to dream for selves and country in charting new path

Retirement is a vital milestone in a person's professional life and it is, as often stated, a reflection of one's journey, legacy, and mortality. Cognizant of the meaning and significance of retirement, UP Manila held a memorable and poignant virtual recognition program for its 102 retirees from 2017 to 2020 on June 25 as part of UP Manila's commemoration of the 113th Founding Anniversary of the University of the Philippines.

Through inspiring messages, touching songs and videos, and other expressions of gratitude, support, and hope for their life ahead, the ceremony paid tribute to the devoted service and contributions of its faculty, research, and administrative retirees to the university, country, and society; and wished them well as they turn a new chapter in their lives.

Chancellor Padilla lauded the retirees' dedicated, long, and faithful service in their respective capacities and spheres of work. "The university's lofty standing is because each of you contributed to its smooth running and because you did your own task diligently. Your work and service brought a huge, new meaning and capacity to our work in management that has helped us live out our professional and even our personal mission," Chancellor Padilla told the honorees.

Cris Go, a theater artist/singer, sang and dedicated the song "*Sama-sama Nating Abutin*"—that speaks of unity, shared aspirations, and collective efforts—to the retirees.

Providing the response on behalf of the faculty were Professor and former Faculty Regent Roland Simbulan, and researcher-doctor Dr. Concepcion Ang for the research personnel and administrative staff.

Dr. Ang, who spent her most productive years at the PGH Infectious Disease Section until her retirement in December 2018, expressed gratitude and appreciation to the REPS and administrative staff for their loyal service, many of whom worked with UPM and PGH from 20 to 40 years. She reminded them that retirement is not an end but a new beginning of a new horizon in life.

Prof. Simbulan, former UP Manila Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development with 38 years of work experience at the College of Arts and Sciences, author of books on the PH Foreign Policy and PH US Bases, researcher, and unionist; said he and fellow faculty retirees will forever be grateful for the opportunity to be part of UP Manila's accomplishments and contributions to the nation and society and the challenges it overcame. He was also grateful for seeing their career goals accomplished; and seeing their students become this country's national treasures, the best and brightest, performing well and becoming successful in serving our nation.

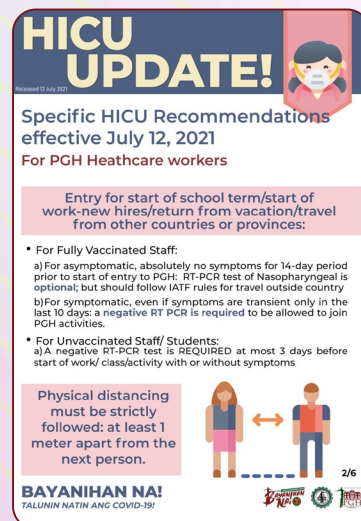
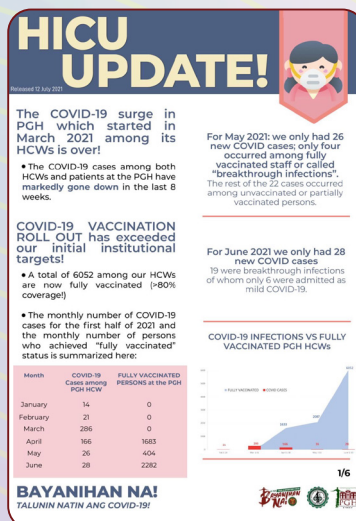
He noted that contrary to common perception, the retirement period is within the age range when the retirees' intellectual capacity peaks. This is proven, he added, by the average age when Nobel Prize awardees won theirs, as in age 55 for physics, 68

for medicine, and 67 for economics.

"The challenge of creating new pathways for meaning in our lives is within us. I have continued doing scholarly work through nongovernmental organizations and civil society groups. I continue to serve with greater vigor as a public intellectual to share knowledge, experiences, and insights with younger colleagues, graduate students, scholars, and the larger community," Prof. Simbulan affirmed. "As we tread a new chapter, we will face new challenges as we had in the past. *Mangarap tayo hindi lamang para sa sarili kundi para sa lipunan at sa bayan.*"

Each retiree was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and a UP oblation statuette that symbolizes the university's offering of service and its willingness to sacrifice to be able to achieve higher goals and aspirations for the country and people.

The program was capped by a virtual duet of "*Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan*" by Dr. Melfred Hernandez, who also served as emcee of the program, and popstar royalty Sarah Geronimo. **Cynthia M. Villamor**



TVUP marked the first anniversary of its *Stop COVID Deaths Webinars* by holding a special episode entitled “COVID-19 Frontliners: *Kamusta Na Kayo?*” on April 23, 2021. The forum’s main speakers were **Dr. Anselmo Tronco**, Chair, PGH Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, PGH Spokesperson **Dr. Jonas Del Rosario**, and singer-composer **Ardie Lopez**.

Hosted by Dr. Susan Pineda-Mercado and Dr. Raymond Francis Sarmiento, the 49th webinar kicked off with a heartwarming video of beloved frontliners who succumbed to COVID-19, to honor their bravery and selflessness in battling the pandemic. With the soulful voice of Dr. Kathlyne Anne A. Senen, a PGH pediatrician who died of COVID-19 singing the song “A Warrior is a Child” by Twila Paris, the video brought the hosts and audience to tears.

Finding Meaning

Dr. Tronco’s talk entitled “Finding Meaning in Suffering, Uncertainty, and Fear” cited Victor Frankl’s “The Case for a Tragic Optimism” written after surviving the horrors of concentration camps during the Holocaust and a retelling of stories of five individuals who suffered great adversities. Dr. Tronco shared secrets on how to efficiently cope in this tough times: creating art, loving someone, and experiencing beauty and nature. He stated that virtues such as spirituality, helping one another, sharing resources, and enduring hardships together will enable us to find light in this crisis.

To further illustrate his point, he quotes from the above piece, “*From the smuck, the lotus blooms. So, in this miserable state that we have, what will emerge of it? It’s kindness, self-compassion, kindness for others; and simply put, loving one another*”. He also emphasized that dealing with the pandemic is unique and specific to our personal circumstances, that is why coping can vary from one person to another. As Filipinos, our resilience will carry us through.

Surviving COVID-19

Dr. Del Rosario shared his experience that started in July 11 last year when his father was admitted to PGH after testing positive for the coronavirus, and was joined a few days later by his mother who also was infected.

Webinar #49

COVID-19 Frontliners: Kamusta Na Kayo?

HOSTED BY:

DR. SUSAN PINEDA MERCADO
Adjunct Faculty
UP Manila National Telehealth Center

DR. RAYMOND FRANCIS SARMIENTO
Director
UP-NH National Telehealth Center

APRIL 16, 2021
FRIDAY | 12NN-2PM

PRESENTER: DR. ANSELMO TRONCO
Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
UP Philippine General Hospital

REACTOR
DR. JONAS DEL ROSARIO
Spokesperson, UP Philippine General Hospital
COVID-19 Survivor

REACTOR
ARDIE O. LOPEZ
Multi-media Producer
Digital Lead for Inquirer Mobility
Parent of a Frontliner

OPENING REMARKS
PROF. DANILO L. CONCEPCION
President, University of the Philippines

OPENING REMARKS
DR. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary, Department of Health

CLOSING REMARKS
DR. CARMENCITA PADILLA
Chairman
University of the Philippines Manila

Stop COVID Deaths Webinars mark 1st year with updates from frontliners

The PGH spokesperson recalled that it was a hard experience for the family knowing the difficulty for COVID patients and senior citizens to be confined in isolation and with family members unable to care for them. “*Yung Filipino way of taking care of a sick loved one, hindi mo magawa,*” he said referring to the strict isolation protocols. Yet, he kept visiting his parents with PPEs on and two weeks later, he got infected as well. “*Hindi mo talaga maiintindihan yung suffering until you are in the same shoes,*” the spokesperson said, recalling the experience of having severe COVID-19 symptoms.

What made an already hard situation harder for the doctor was receiving news of his parents’ demise. “It was a very painful experience and what was more excruciating was not being able to see my parents’ remains and hug them for the last time.”

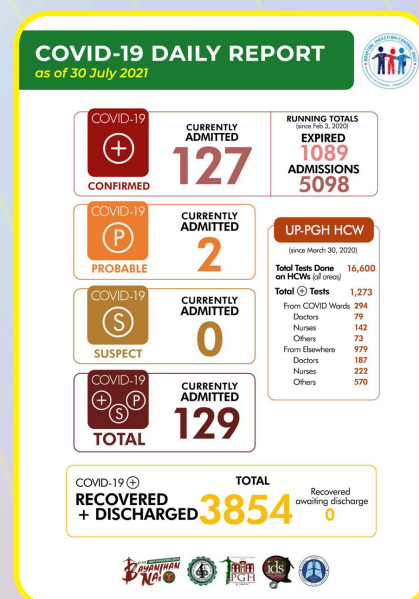
Making sense of this experience, Dr. Del Rosario shared three things that renewed him: (1) finding things to be grateful for, (2) translating the painful experience into a mission, and (3) finding ways to commemorate his deceased loved ones. His COVID-19 journey made him a better Public Affairs Coordinator because it gave him a better understanding of the plight of individuals who get sick or lose a loved one. Dr. Del Rosario ended his presentation by singing a song entitled “*Mahirap Magka-COVID.*”

An Anthem of Hope

Renowned singer-songwriter Archie Lopez composed the song, “I’ll Hold the Line” as an anthem for frontliners. Lopez, father of a doctor frontliner, expressed anxiety for the safety of his child. “As a parent, being helpless is one of the

worst feelings ever especially if it is your blood, your child, that you’ve reared for a couple of decades, going out and facing this pandemic”. Yet, he remains vocal about his admiration for his child and other brave medical frontliners. Thus, to express his emotions and connect people to the everyday realities of frontliners, he wrote “I’ll Hold the Line.” This is a term used by military men during war, when soldiers hold each other to form a line in front of the enemy to prevent the enemy from conquering their camp. Lopez believes that in this pandemic, the same parallelism holds, the virus being the enemy and our frontliners protecting the camp from being conquered.

The partial lyrics of the song go:
*The enemy remains unseen
 I’ll keep your hand in mine
 Let’s say your prayer one more time
 I know you long for home
 But I am here
 You’re not alone
 I’ll stay with you until the coast is there.*
Francis Nicole G. Maga



Public Health Higher Education Forum Caps Webinar Series

The UP College of Public Health (CPH) and British Embassy Manila COVID-19 Learning Webinar series, launched in September 2020 that engaged over 10,000 attendees and live stream views, ended on the 16th episode with high-level representatives discussing how higher education institutions (HEIs) can develop strategies to achieve better health outcomes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals amid the current pandemic.

The event presented the perspectives from the University of the Philippines Manila, Department of Health, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), British Embassy Manila, World Health Organization, and the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health (APACPH).

UP Manila Chancellor **Carmencita Padilla** acknowledged the unprecedented impact of the pandemic on higher education but which also led the university to reconfigure how to educate its students, continue conducting cutting-edge research, and provide relevant training programs. She commended the CPH and its partners for continuously providing a platform for collective and integrated action to respond to much-needed innovations in health education.

Ambassador **Daniel Pruce** of **British Embassy Manila** reiterated UK's partnership with UP-CPH which has strengthened linkages between academia and public health stakeholders. Through this partnership, channels were created for shared learning and approach recalibration in order to contribute more directly to pandemic response. "We are encouraged by the wider participation of academia, represented by HEIs across the Philippines convened by UP," he added.

Health Undersecretary **Dr. Mario C. Villaverde** presented the health-related SDGs in the Philippines and the current response and action points for public health higher education. Among the endeavors implemented by the DOH together with public health stakeholders to achieve SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being Goal) are: FOURmula One



Plus for Health Strategy Map, the National Objectives for Health 2017-2022, the enactment of the UHC Act and signing of its implementing rules and regulations, development of the National Health Resource Masterplan, the National Health Workforce Support System, expansion of scholarship and training programs to increase the needed number of healthcare professionals, and certification of primary care workers among others. Dr. Villaverde strongly encouraged the HEIs to incorporate primary care in the health professional curricula which includes the alignment of the degree and executive courses to the needs of our health systems.

Presenting the "Next Steps in Public Health Higher Education", CHED announced that it has adopted a policy that will allow flexible learning to continue in 2021 and thereafter. This is according to its Chairperson **Dr. Prospero De Vera III** who explained that going back to the traditional face-to-face classes would mean running the risk of exposing our educational stakeholders to the same risks if another pandemic comes in. Moreover, all the investments in technology, teacher training, and the retrofitting of facilities would only be wasted if the old setup is reinstituted.

Discussing the gaps and challenges in public health education to achieve the SDGs for the country, **CPH Dean Vicente Belizario Jr.** identified the absence of a uniform competency framework for public health practice since none of the public health degree programs are governed by a CHED Memorandum Order. The

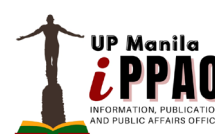
profession of public health is not being regulated by the Professional Regulation Commission, there is no professional Public Health society that regulates the specialty, and no database that tracks graduates in Public Health.

Dr. Belizario expressed the importance of the 4Cs as opportunities to narrow the gaps: **capacity building**, research/generating evidence, and public service; multidisciplinary **collaboration** or the crucial role of public health experts working with other experts and **consensus**; and **communication/communicating** with policymakers, service providers, people in communities, and partners.

Finally, **Dr. Rebecca Shah**, Political Counsellor of British Embassy Manila enumerated diverse UK-PH collaborations that are directly and indirectly related to health education, more notably the four-part series on vaccines which enabled dialogue on vaccine procurement, administration, risk communication, and vaccine hesitancy. "Looking back, our cooperation is already broad, deep, and strong. Looking ahead, COVID-19 will continue to test our resolve in international cooperation and collaboration. Our shared approach will continue to emphasize the importance of working together and our ambition to strengthen UK-Philippines partnership as a force for good."

Also in the forum were **Dr. Wahyun Low**, APACPH President; **Dr. Ma. Frieda Hapan**, Chair, CHED Technical Committee on Medical Technology Education; and **Dr. Florante Trinidad**, WHO National Professional Officer. The full recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#). **Anne Marie Alto**

EDITORIAL BOX



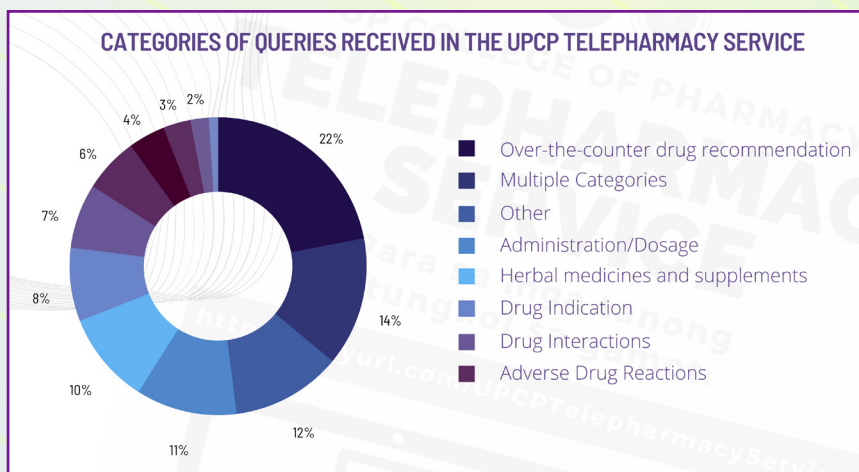
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UPCP COVID-19 Pandemic Telepharmacy Service marks 1st year

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the people have had even more difficulty accessing quality medicines and medicine information.

In an effort to address this, the UP College of Pharmacy launched its Telepharmacy Service on July 19, 2020. The initiative aims to provide drug information and counseling in response to patient drug inquiries. The Telepharmacy Service is run by volunteers composed of 38 faculty members and alumni and 166 student pharmacists.

The service is provided through a Google form disseminated through the UP College of Pharmacy Facebook page that collects patient/caregiver inquiries regarding medications and other related concerns. The queries are acknowledged and answered by a registered pharmacist or pharmacy student. The responses are then validated for accuracy of information by another registered pharmacist validator to ensure the credibility of the response, and then forwarded to the patient.

Medical-related questions and COVID-19-related concerns are immediately forwarded to the PGH *Bayanihan Na!* Operations Center for proper management.

As of May 2021, the UPCP Telepharmacy Service has served over 600 patients, giving up-to-date and validated responses to their medication concerns. As shown in the figure, the categories with the most number of queries included over-the-counter drug recommendations and

multiple categories. Food supplement and maintenance medications were also frequently recorded in the queries received. Currently, the service is open four days a week from 8AM to 5PM.

The service has allowed faculty and alumni to utilize their decision-making

skills and clinical judgement through a safe and accessible means and share knowledge on rational medication use outside of their main field of practice. It has given them an opportunity to serve patients as pharmacists and develop and update their knowledge and skills based on the needs of clients and patients.

For student pharmacists, the UPCP Telepharmacy Service has allowed them to apply and communicate their knowledge and learnings from didactic online classes and develop their clinical skills while adjusting to the norms of the current pandemic.

As drug experts, the UPCP Telepharmacy Service has been an avenue to rectify misinformation on health and medications and has highlighted the role of the pharmacist as drug information providers, counselors, and communicators in the healthcare team. **Princess Marie Athena H. Aquino, RPh; Kristine Eves S. Garcia, RPh; Frances Lois U. Ngo, RPh, MHSS**

HICU UPDATE!

Revised 12 July 2021

Specific HICU Recommendations effective July 12, 2021

For PGH Healthcare workers

Quarantine Rules:
All accidental and unwanted exposures to COVID-19 cases will be investigated.

- Contact tracing will be done mainly by the HICU. Decisions of HICU are final.
- For High-Risk Exposures:
 - a) Fully Vaccinated Staff: Case to case basis evaluation, likely shortened quarantine; test by the 5th day; back to work if negative test
 - b) Unvaccinated/Partially Vaccinated Automatic: pull out for 14-day quarantine
- For Low-Risk Exposures: Report to HICU Observe.

Return to Work (RTW) of PGH Personnel after COVID-19 illness policies remain the same.

- To return to work requires clearance from UPHS. Decisions of UPHS are final.
- PGH-HICU-UPHS RTW policies are based on CDC recommendations, which states the period of infectiousness sharply declines after symptoms subside, replication-competent virus has not been recovered after 10 days following symptoms.
- Isolation period for PGH Staff:
 - a) For asymptomatic COVID-19: 10 days from positive RT PCR test
 - b) For symptomatic COVID-19: 10 days from first appearance of symptoms

BAYANIHAN NA!
TALUNIN NATIN ANG COVID-19!

3/6

HICU UPDATE!

Revised 12 July 2021

Specific HICU Recommendations effective July 12, 2021

ON HIGH-RISK ACTIVITIES

Meals are high risk activities in closed workplace settings because persons remove their masks when they eat. The risk can be controlled by having a meal plan such as:

- Staggered schedule of lunch breaks
- Designated seats on the common office table which are spaced at least 2 meters apart
- If essential conferences (e.g. webinars, endorsement rounds) coincide with meals like breakfast or dinners, opt for virtual conference setup.
- Opt to eat in open spaces around PGH.
- If the HCWs will eat as a group, intentionally maintain at least a 2 meter space between persons.

Face-to-face workshops and other activities

- The benefit of the activity must clearly outweigh the risks.
- Plan these well and in coordination with HICU and other stakeholders.
- Participants must cooperate including need for testing

Plastics are discouraged and will be removed.

- Well-designed acrylic barriers are allowed and recommended
- In areas to reduce direct contamination of work space with respiratory droplets of clients, patients, watchers and all other kinds of interactions
- Regular cleaning with disinfectants should be done by the direct users
- Use of UV light is controlled and centralized because of potential adverse effects of this cleaning modality. It can only be used in coordination with HICU.

BAYANIHAN NA!
TALUNIN NATIN ANG COVID-19!

6/6

HICU UPDATE!

Revised 12 July 2021

Specific HICU Recommendations effective July 12, 2021

OPTIMIZING WORKPLACE SAFETY

VENTILATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Whenever possible, schedule activities at open-air settings (ex: PGH Atrium) & eating in open air setup.

FOR OPEN SPACES

- Like Chapel, PGH Lobby, Atrium, Corridors
- Augment air movement using fans to improve air mixing and dilute viral particle concentrations.
- Use low velocity settings for ceiling fans which pull air up to ceiling.
- Position fans strategically and direct to unoccupied corners or walls. Do not direct to persons.

FOR CLOSED SPACES

- Like most administrative offices, call rooms
- The High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter systems are recommended.
- Arrange furniture to maximize personnel capacity and still maintain 1 meter distance between healthcare workers.
- Open windows and doors to increase entry of outdoor air if security is not an issue.
- Routinely open windows during pre-defined periods to improve air circulation and allow exchange of air.

FOR WARDS

- COVID and Non COVID wards
- Force air movement to flow in a clean-to-less-clean direction using large fans and exhaust systems out through open windows to garden
- Augmented by several HEPA filters near patient beds

BAYANIHAN NA!
TALUNIN NATIN ANG COVID-19!

5/6

HICU UPDATE!

Revised 12 July 2021

Specific HICU Recommendations effective July 12, 2021

OPTIMIZING WORKPLACE SAFETY

ON MEALS

Meals are high risk activities in closed workplace settings because persons remove their masks when they eat. The risk can be controlled by having a meal plan such as:

- Staggered schedule of lunch breaks
- Designated seats on the common office table which are spaced at least 2 meters apart
- If essential conferences (e.g. webinars, endorsement rounds) coincide with meals like breakfast or dinners, opt for virtual conference setup.
- Opt to eat in open spaces around PGH.
- If the HCWs will eat as a group, intentionally maintain at least a 2 meter space between persons.

ON FTF ACTIVITIES

Face-to-face workshops and other activities

- The benefit of the activity must clearly outweigh the risks.
- Plan these well and in coordination with HICU and other stakeholders.
- Participants must cooperate including need for testing

ON BARRIERS & UV LIGHT

- Plastics are discouraged and will be removed.
- Well-designed acrylic barriers are allowed and recommended
- In areas to reduce direct contamination of work space with respiratory droplets of clients, patients, watchers and all other kinds of interactions
- Regular cleaning with disinfectants should be done by the direct users
- Use of UV light is controlled and centralized because of potential adverse effects of this cleaning modality. It can only be used in coordination with HICU.

BAYANIHAN NA!
TALUNIN NATIN ANG COVID-19!

6/6

Planting the Seeds of Collaboration for One Health



Chancellor for Planning and Development and PhilOHUN Chair, shared that the course inspired new ideas that may contribute to the development of new health-related legislation to address issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr., Dean of the UP CPH and Centre Director of TROPED Philippines in his closing statement as course coordinator, expressed that UP CPH/TROPED Philippines will support other universities that will hold similar courses in the future and will guide the establishment of “U-2-U” (university to university) collaboration. The College/ Centre together with PhilOHUN, SEAOHUN, USAID OHW-NG project, and Chevron will continue to offer courses in One Health to train future “champions” in different fields.

The University of the Philippines Manila College of Public Health (CPH) and TROPED Philippines piloted the first online course on One Health in the Philippines, “Introduction to One Health,” on May 4-6, 2021 for the capacity building of professionals from the human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

“We had limited One Health initiatives in the past, and we hope that this short course will trigger a series of capacity building activities for academics and practitioners working in various health-related disciplines,” UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla stated.

More than 130 professionals from 15 regions across the country participated in the course, representing academic institutions, government agencies, and non-government organizations. The participants came from a wide range of disciplines such as medicine, allied health, veterinary medicine, agriculture, education, and social science.

Developed by the CPH SEAMEO TROPED Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration, Environmental and Occupational Health (TROPED Philippines) in collaboration with the Philippine One Health University Network (PhilOHUN), the initiative was supported by a grant from the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) One Health Workforce - Next Generation (OHW-NG) Project. It aims to increase understanding of One Health fundamentals while planting the seeds of multidisciplinary collaboration in research,

education, and policy development around One Health in the Philippines.

For three days, experts and practitioners from the human, animal, and environmental health sectors facilitated a series of sessions on the Fundamentals of One Health; Interrelatedness of Human, Animal, and Environmental Health; and Applications of One Health.

Dr. Michael L. Tee, UP Manila Vice-

UP FOUNDATION FROM PAGE 1... definition of *convergence* as the “deep integration of knowledge, techniques, and expertise from multiple fields” to form new and expanded frameworks for addressing scientific and societal challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Gloriani has had 37 years of exemplary service and significant contributions in the field of leadership, research, and public service, both locally and internationally. Her retirement in 2018 did not stop her from serving the country by lending her expertise in the COVID vaccination rollout, recommending vaccines for clinical trials, and giving advice and inputs on national vaccine procurement and deployment.

Being active in local and international collaborations, Dr. Gloriani impelled the university to strengthen cooperation with various communities by initiating further COVID-19 academic programs geared towards containment and

immediate response, diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccination, deeper study on and monitoring of new variants, and preparing resilient-based structures for the post-pandemic era.

She also encouraged UP to bolster the adoption of new and digital technologies, boost environment scanning for possible succeeding waves, and foster student and faculty development. She shared key points on how we can respond to the challenges of the pandemic on a national level, and eventually link this on a global scale. At the end of her talk, Dr. Gloriani reviewed UP’s statistics in the QS World Rankings and called on the university to fortify UP education for better service to the nation and the world.

The celebration was organized by a committee chaired by Office of International Linkages Director Dr. Tammy Dela Rosa. The full video of the event can be viewed [here](#). **Francis Nicole Maga and Cynthia M. Villamor**