



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



JUNE 2021

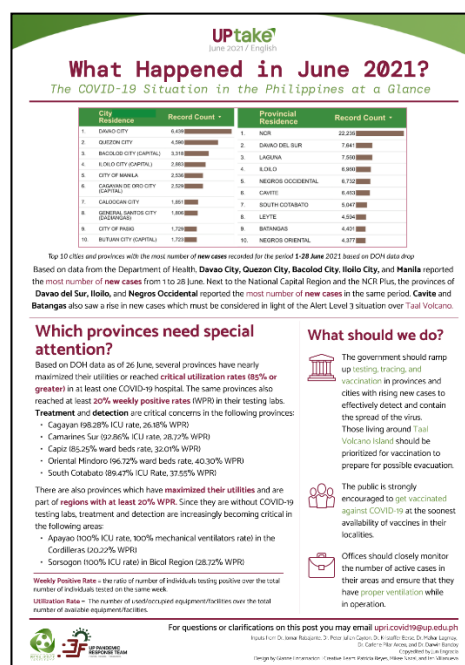


UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

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Against the backdrop of a worsening pandemic situation, the University of the Philippines maintains its commitment to be at the forefront of providing quality public service, mobilizing the dynamic energies of its community of faculty, staff, and students to create different ways of coping and paving the way to a better post-COVID world.

Creation and Dissemination of Knowledge

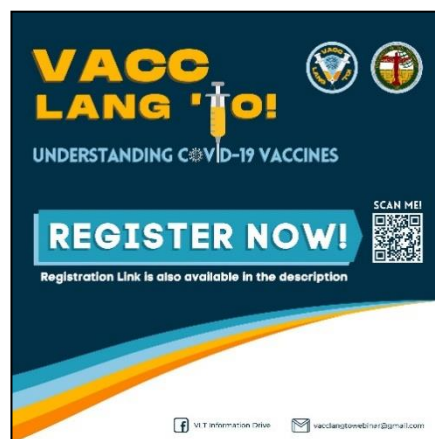


UPTake COVID-19 Situationer for May 2021, issued by the UP Pandemic Response Team

The UP Pandemic Response Team released the *UPTake COVID-19 situationer* for May 2021, which listed provinces that need special attention, highlighted COVID-19 trends, and summarized the Team's policy recommendations.

Various units continue to organize webinars that seek to inform the general public about relevant topics. The *Stop COVID Deaths webinar series* for this month featured timely discussions on vaccine hesitancy among senior citizens, collaborations of local government units with the private sector in rolling out their vaccination programs, lingering and long-haul COVID-19 symptoms for patients who have recovered, ethical dimensions of resource allocation for COVID-

19 patients, and management of COVID-19 in children. Aside from streaming webinars on clinical updates of a wide array of medical cases, the University of the Philippines Manila hosted webinars that gave updates on COVID-19 clinical trials (*UP-PGH COVID-19 Trials: Where are we now?*) and tackled the impact of the pandemic in the management of HIV (*HIV and COVID-19 Webinar Series*). The University of the Philippines Los Baños, through its University Health Service, joined in highlighting the need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in a webinar entitled, “*COVID-19: The Importance of Vaccination*.” In the same vein, students from the University of the Philippines Cebu also organized an open educational webinar entitled, “*VACC LANG 'TO! Understanding COVID-19 Vaccines*.”



Open educational webinar on COVID-19 vaccines by UP Cebu students

Meaningful, colorful, and safe celebration of Pride Month



UP Baguio reaffirmed its solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community and its commitment to make the University a safe and nurturing space.



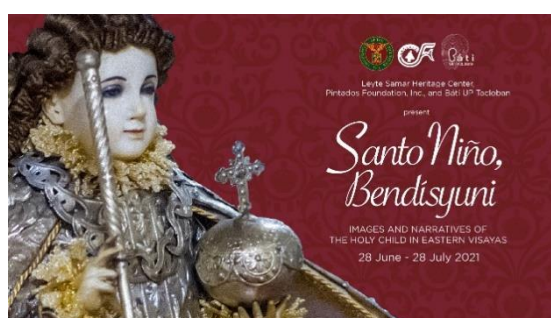
The UP CWGS celebrated solidarity and allyship with members of the LGBTQIA+ community through virtual kapihan sessions and Pride Month webinars.

All around the UP System, UP units have organized webinars, online gender sensitivity trainings and workshops, and virtual *kapihan* sessions in the name of solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. The University of the Philippines Baguio held a *solidarity Pride celebration* in its grounds and conducted *Pride Story Time*, a storytelling activity that shared stories about the LGBTQIA+ community to children. The UP Diliman Law Center held the “*Lahat Pantay-Pantay: A Webinar on the Legal Situation of the LGBTQ+ Community in the Time of COVID*” to discuss the application of laws affecting members of the LGBTQ+ community. Gender-fair communication was the topic of the webinar hosted by the UP Diliman Gender Office, while the Department of History traced the beginnings of the Pride movement in the Philippines (*Sama All, Pantay All: Ang Pag-usbong at Pagyabong ng Pride Movement sa Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas*). Meanwhile, the Gender and Development Committee of the University Library discussed the accessibility of safe spaces to LGBTQIA++ youth in the webinar entitled, “*Developing a Culture of Inclusion: Making Safe Spaces Accessible to the LGBTQIA++ Youth*.” The Institute of Statistics explored the state of LGBTQIA+ research in the webinar entitled, “*Researching the Rainbow*.” The College of Science celebrated members of its community who also identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community, entitled “*Beaming with Pride: Celebrating LGBTQIA+ in Science*.” The UPD Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment led a Review of the 2017 UP ASH Code, while the Office for the Advancement of Teaching published the *Safe Spaces Manual* containing tips that will help faculty members foster inclusive and safe spaces even in the virtual classroom. UP Los Baños held the virtual reunion of the UPLB Gender Center’s partners in *Pride: Bringing People Together* and explored how gender plays into the participation of individuals in volunteer opportunities (*Intersections 2: Gender and Volunteerism*). The UP Open University Office of Gender Concerns organized a *Gender-Responsive and Feminist Research*, and hosted a podcast entitled, *#SpeakYourself: Protecting Oneself Against Online Sexual Harassment* that aired in the UPOU Networks and other platforms. The University of the Philippines Visayas organized the *Pride in Visayas: A Roundtable Discussion on the Best Practices in Governance, Advocacy Work, and Education* and the *Webtalk: Why Pride*. UP Cebu organized the

SOGIESC Awareness Webinar, while the University of the Philippines Mindanao held a *Gender Sensitivity Training and UP ASH Code Orientation* for its students. The UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies capped off the month-long celebration with *Kapihan with Pride 2021*, a virtual session filled with manifestations of solidarity across various groups and discussions of the plethora of issues that the LGBTQIA+ community faces, and the webinar entitled “*Better Together: Solidarity and Allyship with the LGBTQIA+ Community*.”

Proactive Information Dissemination

The Philippine Genome Center continues to conduct genomic sequencing of COVID-19 to determine the presence of mutations and variants, and it had given news updates on the detection of the African swine fever (ASF) in Mindanao this month. Meanwhile, students of UP Baguio organized webinars that covered discussions on history and contemporary issues (*KILATIS: Siyasatin ang Diwa ng Kasaysayan to analyze contemporary issues in the study of history*) and the digital economy with particular focus on Filipino cryptocurrency (*Academic Convention in Economics 2021: Sustainable and Practical Approach to Digital Economy and Spending*). The UP Visayas Tacloban College commemorated the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines in the webinar entitled, “*Christianity: Santo Niño, Bendísyuni: Images and Narratives of the Holy Child in Eastern Visayas*.”



The “Santo Niño, Bendísyuni” online exhibition

UP Los Baños' graduate students discussed how good governance addresses education inequalities (*Governance in Education: Managing Uncertainty in the Time of COVID-19*). UP Diliman's College of Law enlightened participants about how crimes against humanity are brought up in the International Criminal Court in the webinar entitled, “*Crimes against Humanity and the International Criminal Court: Nature, Procedure, and Implication on the Philippine Situation*.” UP Cebu went live with webinars on the current issues on curriculum development and job preparation for graduating

students. The UP Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs co-presented the webinar entitled, *"The Function of Business in Modern Society,"* with the UP Diliman Cesar Virata School of Business and UP Mindanao School of Management. UP Mindanao also organized the webinar entitled, *"Preparing for Publication: A Young Researcher's Guide,"* for junior faculty members, research assistants, undergraduates, and graduate students.

UP Manila conducted a series of information webinars on multiple topics, in addition to regular clinical management updates. The Philippine General Hospital gave an update on the ongoing clinical trials for COVID-19. Partnering with the Department of Health, UP Manila led a discussion of road safety entitled, *"Advancing Health through Evidence Assisted Decision,"* with a focus on current management programs and injury prevention. In a separate webinar and together with the National Academy of Science and Technology, it gathered experts to discuss *Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice*. The College of Pharmacy hosted the webinar entitled, *"Nanoformulations for Drug Delivery,"* while the College of Nursing tackled health and utilization inequalities among older adults in *Embracing Ageing in the Western Pacific: Health and utilization inequalities and palliative care*. It also held the *Annual Julita V. Sotejo Lecture on Nursing and Related Disciplines: Transforming Healthcare in the Community*. In celebration of the 160th birth anniversary of Jose Rizal and in commemoration of Manila Day, the Manila Studies Program organized the webinars entitled, *"Manila @ 450: History & Legacy"* and *"Rizal @ 160: Mga Bagong Sipat sa mga Kaisipan at Akda ni Jose Rizal."* The UP Manila Guidance and Counseling Program shared how relationships with parents could be improved in *Honoring and Loving Our Parents*, while the UP Manila Committee on Research Integrity organized the webinar on *Research Integrity: Fabrication and Falsification*.



Webinars of UP Manila for the 450th Founding Celebration of Manila City and 160th birthday anniversary of Jose Rizal

Webinars that have been organized this month also featured updates on science and technology. UP Los Baños partnered with the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research (PFR) to present *Partnerships for Impactful Science*, while the collaboration with the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research produced the webinar entitled, “*Mixed-Methods Impact Assessment Framework*.” UP Los Baños also held webinars on cassava production, Philippine forests (*Crash landing on you: Is Philippine Forestry in ICU? Reality check, a hard look at sustainable forest and natural resources management in the Philippines*), biomedical physics, the Rice Tariffication Law (*Rice Tariffication Law: Two Year After*), agricultural mechanization (*BIOMECH Engineering Seminar and Training on Mechanization*), and agroforestry (*Harnessing Economic Potentials of Agroforestry: Lessons from the Practitioners* and *Dagta ng Buhay: The Philippine Almaciga E-talks*). UP Mindanao held a webinar on food quality management for students (*Food Quality Management: Quality Management in the Philippine Food Industry and Challenges Encountered During the Pandemic*), on intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and preparing for research publications (*Preparing for Publication: A Young Researcher’s Guide*), and shared its research breakthroughs online, such as its partnership with the Davao Del Norte State College on disaster mapping (*Vulnerability Assessment of Coastal Areas in Davao Gulf to Climate-related Hazards*) and the use of lactic acid from cassava starch to produce biodegradable polymer for environment-friendly food packaging.

The UP Diliman Office of Student Projects and Activities highlighted the importance of community engagement and youth leadership in the *Talaban* webinar series, with its theme “*Pukawin at Pasiglahin ang mga Mag-aaral Tungo sa Pagkakaisa at Paglilingkod.*” In the same vein, UP Visayas organized *Forwarding Youth Initiatives during the Pandemic*, which showcased how the youth have continued serving communities despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic. Meanwhile, the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences of UP Los Baños invited young trailblazers and innovators to inspire their peers in the *AgriCOOLture Youth Champions* webinar series. UPLB Chancellor Jose Camacho also met with the local government of Alabat, Quezon to discuss collaborations for the development of agriculture through youth mobilization.

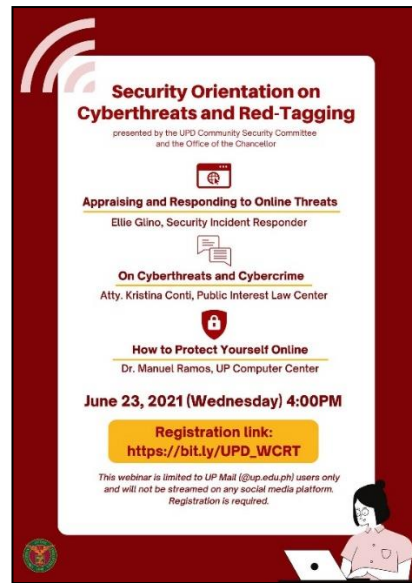
Misinformation and disinformation plague the country’s pandemic response. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences of UP Mindanao endeavored to combat these through a partnership with Rappler’s MovePH in organizing a webinar that will orient participants about factchecking. The UP Open University also discussed the proliferation of fake news in an episode of OPEN Talk entitled, “*Media Literacy: Iwasan Maging Biktima ng Fake News.*” The UP Los Baños University Health Service led a webinar that tackled the importance of vaccination.



UPOU's OPEN Talk on fake news

Various virtual conferences, training programs, and fora have also been organized around the University. The UP-Philippine General Hospital Department of Medicine held a three-day workshop and conference entitled, “*Plan, Prepare, Prevail: An Online Postgraduate Course on Disaster Preparedness*” which included discussions on trauma care, international emergency medical service systems, and military medicine. The UP Manila College of Nursing enjoined cancer patients, their family, and caregivers to participate in the forum entitled, “*Cancer Chemotherapy at COVID-19*,” while the National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions conducted the *2nd Virtual Health Professions Education Expo 2021* with the theme “*The Emerging Landscape of*

Health Professions Education." UP Mindanao held the *4th International Workshop on Mathematical Biology* with the theme, “*Strengthening Decision-Support Systems for Better Public Policy through Infectious Disease Modeling*” and the *International Forum on LIFE (Livelihood Improvement through Facilitated Extension)* which featured how farmers' income in violence-stricken areas in Mindanao have been increased through vegetable farming, seaweed farming, and livelihood diversification. The UP Open University held the *Forum on Philippine Higher Education of the Future*, which featured discussions and new perspectives that will ensure the readiness of the Philippine education system in the face of disasters, and launched the *Sustainable Institution Building for Open Learning (SIBOL)* program for state colleges and universities to develop their own teacher training programs for online, blended, or remote learning. UP Visayas held a training on the sampling and preparation of shrimp for laboratory analyses and a webinar series on Philippine planktology. Meanwhile, the students of UP Visayas Tacloban College hosted the *7th Biennial Eastern Visayas Political Science Conference* with the theme, “*Politics of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the New Normal: Crisis and Opportunities.*” The UP Los Baños BIDANI program held a week-long training for regional partners in state universities and colleges to equip them with the necessary knowledge to continue the promotion of community nutrition in the time of the pandemic, while the Dairy Training and Research Institute held a *blended training course on Essential Skills in Dairy Livestock Management*. The UPLB College of Development Communication trained representatives of local government units and community groups in Los Baños, Laguna in the basics of media, information literacy, and social media management. Meanwhile, UP Diliman invited students and stakeholders to its *Security Orientation on Cyberthreats and Red-tagging*. The Sagip K9 Training Program of UPD endeavored to train the campus animals to help in search-and-rescue operations.



UPD webinar on cyberthreats and red-tagging

Through telemedicine, informative webinars, online *kumustuhan* sessions, and other institutional support mechanisms, UP continuously addresses the challenges of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of students, faculty members, and staff. In this line, the UP System has called on student organizations to submit mental health advocacy proposals that will be funded by the administration. UP Baguio organized webinars that tackled mental health promotion (*The ME in Mental Health: During the Pandemic and Beyond*) and also conducted psychosocial first aid trainings for volunteers. UP Manila partnered with the Cultural Center of the Philippines in holding the *Sining Galing Arts Therapy* for staff, while the PGH Telegabay announced new service hours for its COVID-19 teleconsultations. The UP Open University held a virtual *kumustahan* session with students of the Faculty of Information and Communication Studies and dedicated an *OPEN Talk* episode on *Understanding Depression and Anxiety*. UPOU also held the webinar entitled, “*MeetUPs: Increasing Emotional Intelligence for Meaningful Work and Quality Life*.” The Teaching and Learning Resource Center of UP Cebu conducted webinars that introduced participants in the different ways of providing mental health support and in incorporating empathy as we listen to friends and family members who are having difficulty in coping with the mental burden of the pandemic. UP Diliman continues to serve as a COVID-19 vaccination center and it has also provided flu vaccines for regular and contractual employees, in anticipation of the monsoon season. The Training and Convention Division of the UP College of Law discussed available government programs, policies and initiatives concerning mental health care management in *Usapang Kalusugang Pangkaisipan: A Webinar on Mental Health Awareness and Coping Strategies during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. UP Clark also started offering free telemedicine consultations for

students and employees. The UP Diliman Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs released the *UP Mental Health Service Providers Directory*, while the Office for the Advancement of Teaching organized safe spaces for faculty, called *Kalinga Hubs*. This month, UP Mindanao was designated as a vaccination hub for government employees residing in Davao City.

UP units also produced online educational materials that are publicly available. The UP Manila Guidance and Counseling Program shared three techniques for men to improve their mental health. The UP Open University released resources on an animation (*Animation 101: Creating Educational Materials Using PowToon*) and mathematical concepts. UP Diliman shared infographics about data privacy and related concepts. The UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies published a discussion paper entitled, “*Restructuring global value chains in the post-pandemic world: The evolving role of China and what it means for the Philippines.*” UP Mindanao also shared its infographics about the health and safety protocols that need to be observed.



UPD infographics on data privacy

Fundraising Initiatives for Affected Sectors

In support of sectors inside and outside the University, UP units and organizations held calls for donations and fundraising initiatives. The UP Manila Classical Ensemble aimed to support the Ang Misyon, Inc., a non-profit organization that helps develop the musical ability of children, through *GUNITA: A Midyear Concert*. UP Manila also called for donors to donate blood for patients with cancer and blood disorders in the Philippine General Hospital. The School of Health Sciences organized a *two-day Community Pantry* to give aid to more than 300 residents of Palo, Leyte. Finally, the UP Los Baños formally launched its disaster response task force called *UPLB Agapay* and called for support to community pantry initiatives and donations that will help affected members of the UPLB community.