



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



JANUARY 2022



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The new year brought forth new opportunities for the University to strengthen its mandate as the premier public service university in the country. With the developments in research that meet the emerging needs spurred by the new phase of the pandemic, the University remained steadfast in its delivery of timely public service initiatives. They embodied not only the University's ideals of honor and excellence but also the utmost value of compassion.

This report features initiatives that aim to guide UP's constituents and the general public as they grapple with the new realities brought about by the new normal. It features ongoing COVID-19 initiatives such as information dissemination initiatives, direct service provision, and technical assistance. With the upcoming elections, the University has also proven itself as a leader in promoting voter education through its election-related initiatives. It also features initiatives that highlight the University's experts from various disciplines through webinars that tackle a wide range of topics. Lastly, through its volunteerism and advocacy-centered initiatives, the University showcases how the pandemic has failed to dampen the spirit of volunteerism and how the value of compassion remains relevant and a necessity to this day.

Combatting the Challenges of the New Normal

HICU ALERT
on COVID-19
Released 04 January 2022

QUARANTINE RULES:
REDUCE HIGH RISK EXPOSURES

DEFINITION: > 15 minutes, source and exposed not wearing mask

- ① **Asymptomatic Vaccinated High Risk:**
Quarantine after exposure, test at Day 5;
If negative RTW Day 8
- ① **Symptomatic Vaccinated High Risk:**
Test immediately
If negative continue quarantine until Day 7;
Retest with or without symptoms on Day 7,
if negative RTW on Day 8

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Logos: Department of Health, UP, and others

Following the increased mobility and group activities during the holiday season, the first month of the year was marked by a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases. This led the UP PGH Hospital Infection Control Unit (HICU) to issue guidelines on quarantine, isolation of healthcare workers, and other safety protocols in the hospital. On a similar note, the Institute of Herbal Medicine of UP Manila also released a study on Lagundi as an adjunct therapy for mild

and moderate COVID-19. The study mentioned that Lagundi (*Vitex negundo*) in tablet or syrup form can help in the management of symptoms related to mild COVID-19 if taken for ten (10) days in the appropriate dosage. This study proved to be useful following the shortage in the supply of paracetamol amidst the surge of COVID-19 cases. With the rise in cases brought forth by the spread of the Omicron variant, the need for accurate information and expert opinion on the matter became necessary. The UP Resilience Institute featured experts in health, genetics, and mathematical modeling to discuss the Omicron variant of COVID-19 for the January episode of its Monthly Talk series. This webinar touched on the variant's impact on the lives of ordinary Filipinos and the strategies to be utilized to curb its transmission. Highlighting the plight of the marginalized sectors in Southeast Asia, the Center for Integrative and Development Studies released a publication that featured 28 case studies of the coping mechanisms of marginalized and vulnerable sectors. The publication tackled how the said sector coped with the strict and often discriminatory containment measures of the government, which included creative strategies and innovative programs to alleviate their conditions.

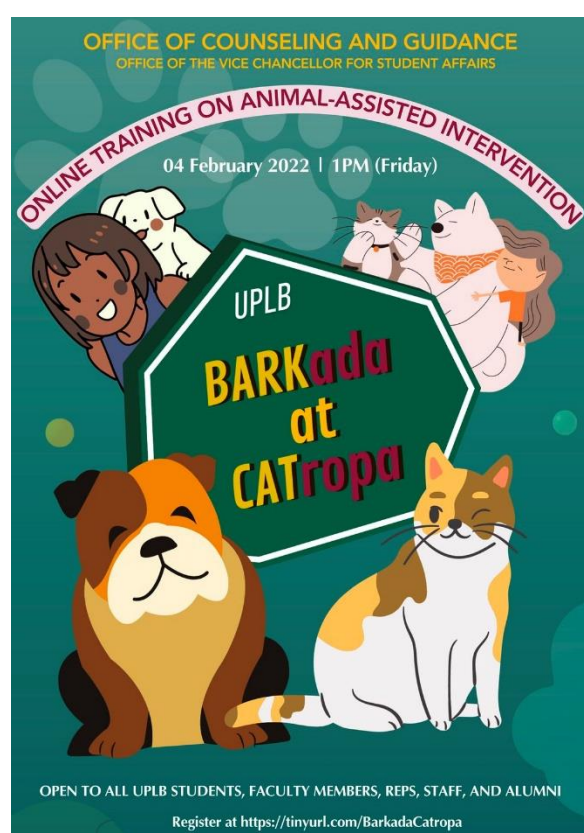
In 2021, the University boasted of its robust vaccination program and its continued efforts to assist various LGUs in their vaccination campaigns. This year, UPLB continued to offer booster vaccination for its personnel. On a similar note, the UP Baguio University Student Council did a vaccination survey for fellow UPB students and supported the *Ligtas na Pagbabalik Eskwela* campaign. The said campaign was discussed further during the Roundtable Discussion with UPB administration and faculty. This became the avenue for the UP Baguio University Student Council, the Rise for Education Alliance-UP Baguio, and the All UP Academic Employees Union-Baguio Chapter to raise student concerns such as finances, board, lodging, etc. The administration and faculty members also shared the plans for limited face-to-face classes, and the efforts done in retrofitting the campus. In UP Visayas, the Teaching and Learning Resource Center Interactive Learning Program (TLRC) organized the Teach SMART: Training on Online Teaching. This is to guide the faculty for another semester of remote learning.

Building Emotional Resilience

As the country transitioned to the new normal, mental well-being has remained to be one of the top priorities of the University. Constituent universities (CUs) had been steadfast in their delivery of public service that focused on building emotional resilience through psychosocial

support training, mindfulness webinars, and other psychosocial support services. UP Los Baños conducted an online training that focused on animal-assisted intervention and UP Diliman on skills necessary to become a peer support volunteer.

UP Diliman also offered several mental health-related services such as Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) and Online psychosocial peer support services for UP Diliman Students, Faculty, and Staff. There were also programs undertaken by UPLB and UPD, respectively, on improving oneself and taking steps towards personal and career growth (New Year, Better You!), and on developing wellbeing (Mindful U).



UP sa Halalan: Election-Related Initiatives

As the country had been gearing up for the upcoming national elections, several CUs began organizing election-related activities to inspire civic engagement and educate voters to help them make the right choice. UP Diliman recently relaunched Tsek.PH, a fact-checking platform to help combat election-related disinformation, given the growing dependence of the general public on social media for election-related information. On a similar note, the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies organized an online workshop to fight the dissemination of fake news by providing the necessary tools and activities that help teachers in spotting fake news online. Still,

on information literacy and the upcoming elections, TVUP organized the webinar entitled, "Over-entertained, under-informed: Are we politically literate?". It featured Department of Political Science Professor, Dr. Jean S. Encinas- Franco as one of the resource speakers.

Harnessing UP's Expertise through Public Service

Beyond teaching and research, public service has become one of the ways by which UP's expertise is harnessed to seek viable solutions to issues that concern present society. Through public service, the University's experts were able to share and bring closer to the general public, their strict and data-driven research.

Spearheading the field of fisheries, the UPV College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences held a webinar on ecosystems approach and fisheries management (EAFM). It highlighted the fundamental and salient points of EAFM to sustainability in the context of the USAID Fish Right Program. In the discussion of the said approach, special attention was given to the post-harvest fisheries component of the framework. Another activity undertaken by UPV CFOS was an Environmental Education seminar for lift net workers and fisherfolks. Aside from educating the fisherfolks on pertinent topics such as



fishery resources, fishery laws or ordinances, and issues on climate change and its effects on their livelihood, the seminar also served as a prerequisite for their license permit renewal. Through the said seminar, issues between the Miagao LGU and the fisherfolk using lift nets were resolved.

The Office of Continuing Education and Pahinungód (OCEP) also conducted training on local taxation and national taxation with over 60 vendors and business owners in attendance. Through the initiative, OCEP aimed to help the participants develop a deeper understanding of taxation and compliance with tax regulations. UP Visayas College of Management faculty members and seasoned tax practitioners conducted a series of lectures during the training,

focusing on topics such as tax compliance and penalties, different types of business taxes and how to compute the taxes dues, what forms to use, and, when and where to file them.



To promote wellness and address pathologic conditions on sexual and reproductive health, the PGH Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology launched its new unit, the Division of Sexual Health (DSH). The said unit was said to be the first of its kind in the country. Aside from tirelessly working to curb the aftermath of the pandemic, UP PGH has also been committed to providing technical assistance to several sectors—one of which was the newly-established OFW Hospital in San Fernando, Pampanga. PGH extended its expertise by training clinical and administrative personnel and assisting in processes related to the development of relevant clinical services. With the noble aim of sharing and communicating their research findings to various stakeholders, UP Visayas has organized CASayoran: A Monthly Research Dissemination Forum by the UPV College of Arts and Sciences. The initial run of the forum series focused on the experiences and coping strategies of fisherfolk and farmers in Guimaras and Miagao, Iloilo.

Teaching Compassion through Volunteerism and Advocacy

Serving the people and the selfless offering of oneself are at the very core of the University's values. Volunteerism, which is one of the many facets of public service, has become an inalienable mandate that UP's constituent universities have been upholding through its initiatives. In celebration of Ugnayan ng Pahinungód's 28th Founding Anniversary, a webinar entitled Pahinungód: Puso Para Sa Bayan was held. This webinar on volunteerism was a



collaboration between the UP Pahinungód offices in Baguio, Cebu, Diliman, Manila, Mindanao, Los Baños, Open University, and Visayas as a kickstart to the three-part virtual series of UPLB Pahinungód. Another of Pahinungód's flagship programs was the Gurong Pahinungód. A program that mobilizes a select group of UP graduates to teach in

public schools in underserved communities for one year. From 1998 to 2008, the program has deployed 405 UP graduates as volunteer teachers to 160 public schools nationwide. Lastly, showcasing UP's values of excellence and compassion, UPOU CWTS students organized Project Piglas, an open webinar discussion with professional guest speakers who talked about their different advocacies.

Other Initiatives

Following the typhoon that ravaged the Visayas region, several outreach programs were undertaken in various areas of the region. In an outreach program in Bohol, the UP Resilience Institute delivered tents and solar-powered lanterns to affected families in Brgy. Lipata. Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Manila brought much-needed relief assistance to the victims in Limasawa island in the form of financial help and distribution of solar power lights, food packs, personal hygiene kits, clothes, sanitary pads, alcohol, and face masks. Lastly, the UPV Tacloban Ugnayan ng

Pahinungód was able to distribute materials that may be used for temporary shelter, food, medicines, and infant formula to the residents of San Francisco and Pintuyan in Southern Leyte. This was made possible through the generous donations of alumni and partners. The UPVTC - Health Services Unit also assisted in the medical outreach. UP Cebu Office of Student Affairs has also given financial assistance through door-to-door visits and money remittance. An alumni group called Balus Bulig also offered aid to UP Cebu students and employees in the form of water and other necessities. The Leyte-based alumni group has also been extending relief goods to other affected areas in Cebu and Southern Leyte.



To help UP Diliman students who need financial assistance, the UPD Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs launched a fundraising program called Taguyod UPD. It sought to offer outright cash aid, which cannot be covered by regular financial assistance programs of the University of the Philippines Diliman. Lastly, the UPV Teaching and Learning Resource Center revamped its Peer Tutorial Program to address the learning needs of students in their remote classes.

Responding to social and environmental challenges and achieving long-term sustainability, CUs had introduced several mechanisms to encourage and support the use of e-vehicles. UP Los Baños, in partnership with the Municipal Government of Los Baños and the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Drivers at Operators ng Los Baños (SNODLOB) Transport Service and Multi-purpose Cooperative, launched the modern electric jeepneys. The said vehicles were set to ply between Los Baños town proper and the UPLB campus. The QC Solar Electric Vehicle Charging Network, a

project of the Electric Mobility Group of the UP National Center for Transportation Studies, was established as an electric vehicle charging station in UP Diliman. This charging station could charge e-trikes, e-scooters, e-bikes, and small electric cars in less than an hour. The QC Solar Electric Vehicle Charging Network is expected to benefit e-vehicle owners in Quezon City for three years.

