



# UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



**FEBRUARY 2023**



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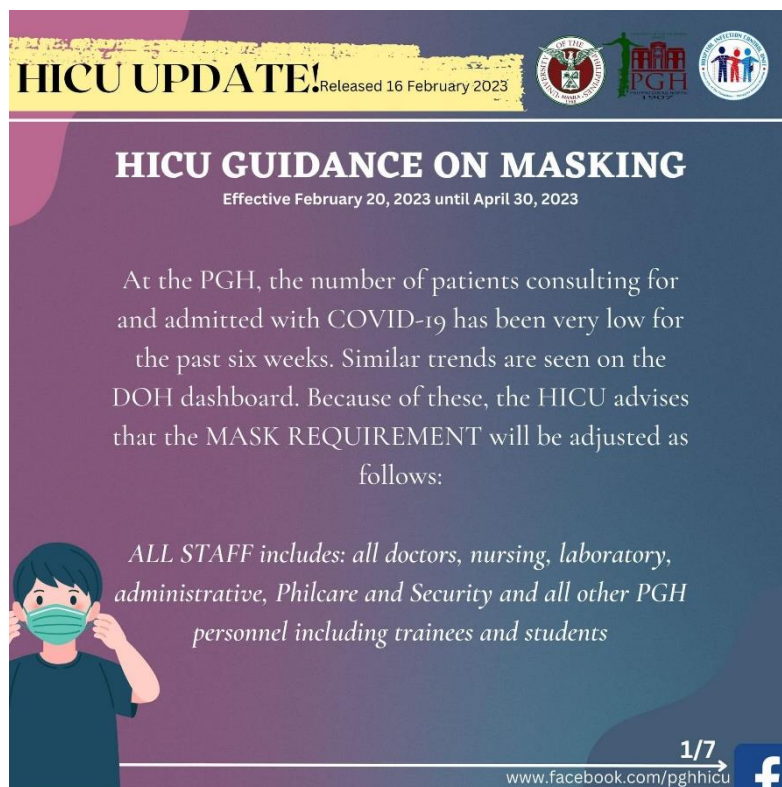
In the country's campaign to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of the Philippines (UP) continues to remain steadfast in its commitment to lend its brilliant minds and helping hands in service to the public. Each constituent university (CU), along with its vast array of units and entities, persists in its adherence to the University's mandate as a public service university through various initiatives aimed at providing the country and its own constituents with exemplary civil service. Collaborative efforts from different government agencies, private sector organizations, and civil units, are manifested into diversified programs and events that target the welfare of the general public. This month's public service report includes initiatives addressing the ongoing pandemic, such as student-centered programs focused on providing the various needs of students and the challenges met in the implementation of face-to-face classes.

As always, the University unceasingly contributes to the generation and sharing of knowledge across various fields, as well as forming relationships with other state universities and colleges (SUCs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) to establish linkages for research and development. Furthermore, several medical and volunteer units from across the CUs embarked on multiple medical missions and voluntary work to lend assistance in various public sectors. This month's initiatives serve as a testament to the University's fulfillment of its civil duty as one of the country's key providers of public service, executed with honor and excellence.

## **The University at the Forefront of COVID-19**

As the country is recovering slowly from the pandemic, the University keeps a vigilant watch on the needs of its constituents as well as the general public. These needs include the continuous implementation and enforcement of both new and existing programs and policies centered on the health and safety of all sectors. UP Baguio continues to monitor the *Average Daily Attack Rate (ADAR)* of COVID-19 to produce a map showing the high-risk barangays in Baguio City in a 14-day coverage. The Hospital Infection Control Unit (HICU) of the UP Manila - Philippine General Hospital (PGH) released a *guideline on masking*, effective from February 20 until April 20, 2023. With the CUs already announcing the conduct of full face-to-face classes, UP Manila provided *F2F Guidelines on COVID-19 Safety* for its constituents which encourages them to use the UPM *Bayanihan Na! Employee Symptoms Tracking System (BESTS)* program. In addition, the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences Office of Student

Services announced the guidelines for this year's *Annual Physical Examination (APE)* for students. Alumni of UP Mindanao BS Biology and former faculty members sponsored a *Libreng Sakay* for everyone on the campus from February 27 to March 2, 2023.



**HICU UPDATE!** Released 16 February 2023

**HICU GUIDANCE ON MASKING**  
Effective February 20, 2023 until April 30, 2023

At the PGH, the number of patients consulting for and admitted with COVID-19 has been very low for the past six weeks. Similar trends are seen on the DOH dashboard. Because of these, the HICU advises that the MASK REQUIREMENT will be adjusted as follows:

*ALL STAFF includes: all doctors, nursing, laboratory, administrative, Philcare and Security and all other PGH personnel including trainees and students*

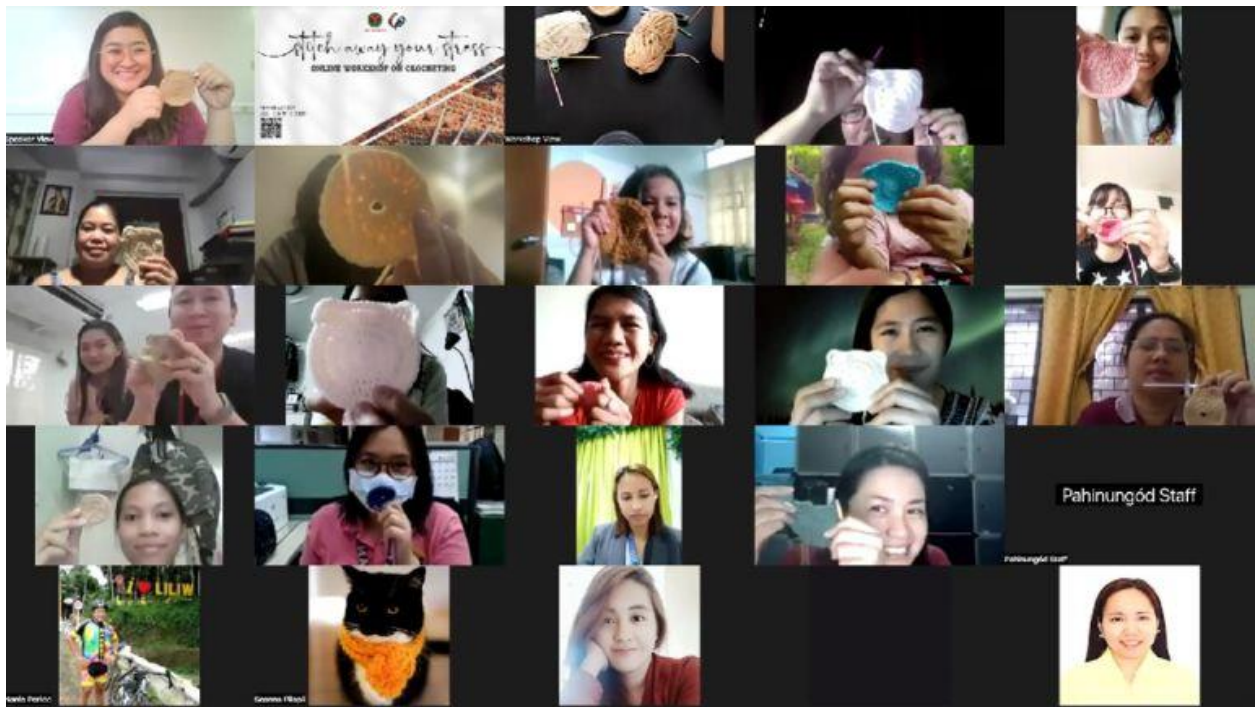
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www.facebook.com/pghhicu

UP-PGH's HICU guidance on masking.  
(Photo credit: UP PGH - HICU Facebook page)

With regards to remote learning, the College of Pharmacy at UP Manila adopted the integration of a *Virtual Pharmacy Simulation Platform in Remote Learning* using the learning management system *MyDispense* developed in Australia. The system is programmed to assist its users in preparing and distributing medications to patients according to a prescription and was used in an online retail pharmacy simulation through the SEIPS (Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety) model. Meanwhile, scientists from UP Mindanao studied the *Efficacy of Wastewater-Based Epidemiology (WBE)* in detecting COVID-19 in the surrounding community wastewater in Davao City, which showed that SARS-CoV-2 RNA can still be identified despite no cases reported in that corresponding week.

The CUs have also organized a number of student-centered programs focusing on lending psychosocial support, specifically for keeping watch on one's mental health as well as maintaining healthy relationships. The UP Manila Guidance and Counseling Program organized the online activity dubbed "*Healthy Love, Happy Life: Conversations on Strengthening Relationships*" that aimed to have open discussions about the value of

cultivating healthy relationships. In the same vein, the UP Manila Learning Resource Center and the Office of Student Affairs held the *Online Upskilling: Relationship Skills* that delved into the dynamics of developing one's personal relationships with family, work, university, and society. The Asian Institute of Tourism at UP Diliman conducted the *Usapang Pusô: Keeping Your Heart Healthy* seminar followed by the *AIT Community Zumba*, which helped participants understand how to keep their hearts healthy. Lastly, the UP Open University Ugnayan ng Pahinungód organized the *Stitch Away Your Stress: An Online Workshop on Crocheting*, which utilized crocheting as a form of stress reliever.



*Workshop on crocheting by the UPOU Ugnayan ng Pahinungód.  
(Photo credit: UPOU Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Facebook page)*

## **Streamlining Information Across Networks**

The University continues to be an avenue for knowledge generation and dissemination, providing opportunities for professionals across multiple disciplines to share their expertise with the public. The CUs strived to empower various sectors and stakeholders of the community mainly through seminars/webinars, workshops, upscaling, and capacity building. Several departments from each CU have contributed a fair amount of information on various science-based and relevant topics from multiple fields, such as agriculture, medicine, transportation, and research development, to name a few.



*New eggplant varieties cultivated by the UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding.  
(Photo credit: UPLB - CAFS Facebook page)*

UP Los Baños upholds its title as the Center of Excellence in Agriculture with its plethora of skill-building activities and events focusing on empowering people in the agricultural sector. The UPLB Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Center from the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) aired its 8th episode of the *Fresh Talk Webinar Series* dubbed “*The role of postharvest technology in increasing the value of new varieties of vegetables*”, available for streaming at their Facebook page. The UPLB Research and Extension featured its PCAARRD-funded project involving the *development of enhanced eggplant varieties* that are pest-resistant, with the research team led by the UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding. With regards to ecosystems, the UPLB School of Environmental Science and

Management (SESAM) held the *SESAM ExChanges Seminar Series 8 of the Continuing Education and Training Division (CETD) titled "Making Nature-Based Solutions in Wetland Ecosystems Work"*.

The UPLB National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology developed *Maizinc*, a soil inoculant that improves the zinc uptake of corn in zinc-deficient soils. Highlighting food sovereignty, the UPLB Agricultural Systems Institute (ASI) organized its 2nd episode of the *ASI Durungawan Seminar Series 2023 titled "Researching Food Sovereignty, Organic Agriculture Movements, and Agrarian Development in the Philippines: Questions & Debates in Agrarian Sociology"*.



*Fisher farmers from Ilog, Negros Occidental receive oyster cultivation and mangrove crab culture training from the UPV-CFOS. (Photo credit: UPV - CFOS Facebook page)*

The Institute of Aquaculture from the UP Visayas College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences opted for a more on-the-ground execution, providing technical assistance to oyster growers from Negros Occidental. The consultative meeting on oyster cultivation and mangrove crab culture aimed to upskill the fisher farmers of Barangay Dos Talabahan Owners Association (BDTOA) from Ilog, Negros Occidental. Students from Kagoshima University Faculty of Fisheries were given an on-campus educational tour as part of the cultural immersion program of the UP Visayas Language Program Office. Furthermore, UP Visayas established a partnership with San Joaquin School of Fisheries (SJSOF) through a

Memorandum of Agreement on the work immersion of senior high school students. Through the agreement, the University may conduct special lectures on aqua fisheries processes and technologies for the students of SJSOF.

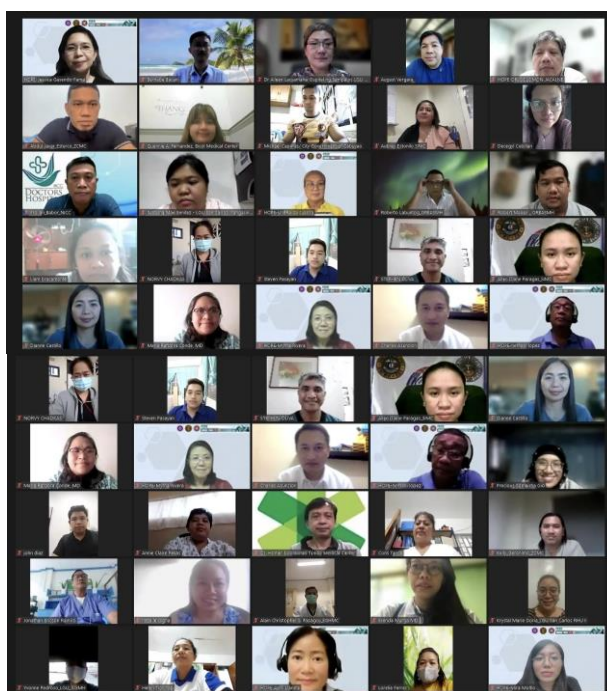


*Inauguration of the Center for Oral Health of the UP Manila College of Dentistry.  
(Photo credit: UP Manila official website)*

Maintaining its status as the seat of excellence in education and advanced instruction in health sciences and the arts, UP Manila furthers its obligation through a variety of programs as well as medical publications. The CU also established linkages with both domestic and foreign government and non-government health organizations for the development and enhancement of policies and programs directed at maintaining the well-being of its citizens. With this, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) approved the construction of the *UP - Philippine General Hospital Cancer Center* which will provide comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable oncology services to its patients. In addition, the *Center for Oral Health* in UP Manila was recently inaugurated as a state-of-the-art facility equipped with dental health professionals ready to offer multidisciplinary services in dental care.

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health Center conducted its *Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) Course* which aims to address various concerns of

health facilities and increase their capacity to respond effectively to emergencies. The College of Pharmacy, in collaboration with, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, organized the three-day webinar series *In-Vitro Release and Dissolution Testing (AAPS-IVRDT) Outreach Community* with the theme “Approaches, Regulatory Challenges, and Advances in Bioequivalence, Dissolution Testing, and Biowaivers”. Meanwhile, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) celebrated its 25th founding anniversary through a two-day conference themed “Transforming Philippine Health Systems Towards Universal Health Care through Research Partnerships”. The event gave way to a signed partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement between UP Manila - NIH and the Department of Health for two projects under the NIH: the establishment of the Institute of Health Promotion, and the expansion of the National Practice Guidelines for the healthcare sector.



Healthcare practitioners attend the UPM-DDRMH HOPE Course.  
(Photo credit: UP Manila - DRRMH Facebook page)

Furthermore, the National Institutes of Health, with a cross-country collaboration with Vietnam dubbed UPM-NIH Partnership for Health Advancement in Vietnam (HAIVN) and Harvard Medical School, commences the *StITCH Project*, a four-year, six-phased project that intends to design a patient-centered primary care strengthening model for hepatitis.

The CUs have fulfilled the University’s mandate as a research university by applying basic and advanced research in various fields, with this month’s initiatives covering the enhancement of education policies of HEIs. UP Open University’s *Sustainable Institute Building for Open Learning (SIBOL) Program*, under the BUKA project, hosted a forum on *Technology-enhanced Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* which convened resource



persons from HEIs from across the globe to discuss the enhancement of higher education through blended and online learning using learning analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. In the same vein, the UP Diliman Office for the Advancement of Teaching held the webinar titled “*AI ayayay! A conversation on Teaching and ChatGPT*” to shed light on ChatGPT, an online artificial intelligence chatbot, and the potential disruptions it may cause in higher education.



*BUKA project partner academics from across the globe convened at the Technology-enhanced Teaching and Learning in Higher Education forum. (Photo credit: UPOU official website)*

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA) and the Teaching and Learning Resource Center (TLR) of UP Visayas conducted a seminar-workshop on the institution of minor programs. The event was in line with the BOR memorandum to overhaul UP’s baccalaureate programs by instituting minor programs with relevance to the current global challenges. The UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management launched a webinar series dubbed *SESAM Research Impact Series (SRIS): Highlighting methods and impacts of interdisciplinary research*, which tackles the latest innovations in research directed at preserving the environment and its inhabitants.

UP Visayas, with its Action Research Team, joined the pilot implementation of the *Iloilo City Road Safety and Courtesy Concept Ideation Project “Sa Lugar Lang”*. The project is a collaboration between the Iloilo City Government and the University, which intends to popularize the Ilonggo phrase “sa lugar lang” used among passengers of public utility vehicles signaling they are at their stops. Meanwhile, the UP Cebu College of Communication, Art, and

Design organized a workshop titled “*Pang-asoy: Restorying Landscapes in a Changing Climate of Cebu*” that plan to preserve, through documentation, cultural and natural heritages in Cebu that has been lost, degraded, or now at-risk due to climate change. A community museum will be launched as an output of the workshop, featuring the documented findings in the communities and their projected future.

### **Extending the University’s Helping Hand**

Manifesting their spirit of volunteerism and heart for the people, the CUs have organized and conducted several outreach events to both near and far-flung communities in need of various assistance. The Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio conducted a *Volunteer Development Training on Numeracy and Literacy* for its volunteer participants in preparation for the EDUKaravan in Springhills. Resource speakers from different departments of the University discussed developing a number sense of learners, as well as an in-depth understanding of literacy including styles of learning and characteristics of a good learner. In addition, the Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio held the month-long *Book Drive and Storyaan sessions* in celebration of its 29th founding anniversary at Libtong School, Burgos, La Union. A total of 686 books from donors, including the 104 books collected through the UP Ugnayan ng Pahinungód System office, were turned over to the faculty and students of Libtong School.



*Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio Book Drive and Storyaan at Libtong School, La Union.  
(Photo credit: Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio Facebook page)*

The UP Manila Ugnayan ng Pahinungód embarked on a *medical, dental, and surgical mission in Virac, Catanduanes*, initiated by the UP Medical Alumni Society in America, in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Virac and the Provincial Government Unit of Catanduanes. The 3-day mission served a total of 306 adults and 107 children and conducted over 600 procedures including dental procedures, major and minor surgeries, and diagnostics.



*The medical team of UP Manila Ugnayan ng Pahinungód in their medical mission at Virac, Catanduanes.  
(Photo credit: UP Manila Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Facebook page)*

UP Mindanao, in collaboration with Philippine Red Cross, UP Madayaw Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and the Red Cross Youth UP Mindanao Council, organized the “*Dugo Mo, Buhay Ko: Blood Donation Campaign*”. In addition, the UP Mindanao Office of Extension and Community Service, together with the Department of Human Kinetics held a one-day *free physical therapy* for the residents of Barangay Bago Oshiro and Mintal.