CORONASYS INNOVATION SHEET 34

SCHOOL REOPENING CHECKLIST

Background

Since the beginning of the pandemic, school closures have occurred again and again in many parts of the world, some of which have been of significant duration[1]. As a result, children's educational opportunities have been reduced worldwide and children from vulnerable backgrounds were affected particularly hard[23]. Schools were faced with the challenge of making classroom teaching safe and offering effective remote learning services that reach as many children as possible[4].

Features

WHO has developed the "Checklist to support schools re-opening and preparation for COVID-19 resurgences or similar public health crises". The document distinguishes several phases and three levels (national, subnational and individual school level) of coordination for school responses. In addition, the checklist identifies 38 essential actions for the different levels and phases of the response and offers many links to relevant guidance documents[5].

State of information: 12/12/2020

Publication: 12/11/2020

Countries: International

Focus area: Education

Developers: WHO

Beneficiaries:

- Policy makers in Health and Education
- National and regional school management boards
- Individual schools

Potentials

The checklist can help to determine whether facilities have the necessary arrangements in place and to augment the schools capacity to respond to the needs in different phases of reopening and responding to case surges. Furthermore, the document helps to divide responsibilities among the different stakeholders involved and provides concrete measures to implement[6].

Points to consider

All recommendations have to be checked for their feasibility for the individual context. Due to the fact, that the guidance derives its recommendations through real-time analysis it has to be regularly updated to include new information on epidemiological considerations and best practises in the field. For example, the checklist was published just before the data of a new study examining the spread of Covid-19 in Austrian schoolchildren which stated that children play a more significant role in the spread of COVID-19 than initially assumed [7].

Conclusion

The WHO checklist can be a useful tool for local health and education officials in assessing and enhancing the capabilities of schools in different phases of the pandemic.

[1] UNESCO. "Education: From Disruption to Recovery." UNESCO, March 4, 2020. https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse.

[2] UNESCO. "UNESCO COVID-19 Education Response: How Many Students Are at Risk of Not Returning to School? Advocacy Paper - UNESCO Digital Library," 2020. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373992.

[3] WHO. "Checklist to Support Schools Re-Opening and Preparation for COVID-19 Resurgences or Similar Public Health Crises," December 2020. P 4.

[4] UNESCO. "Act Now: Reduce the Impact of COVID-19 on the Cost of Achieving SDG 4 - UNESCO Digital Library." Accessed December 12, 2020. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374163.

[5] WHO. "Checklist to Support Schools Re-Opening and Preparation for COVID-19 Resurgences or Similar Public Health Crises," December 2020.

[6] WHO. "Checklist to Support Schools Re-Opening and Preparation for COVID-19 Resurgences or Similar Public Health Crises," December 11, 2020. https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240017467.

[7] Von Bredow, Rafaela. "Neue Corona-Studie: So Ansteckend Sind Kinder Wirklich - DER SPIEGEL," 2020 122AD. https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/mensch/neue-corona-studie-so-ansteckend-sind-kinder-wirklich-a-2dc73cb4-ec20-4c92-a94b-96ff52e5f740.

Background on Innovation Sheet Series

As part of a real-time evaluation of the SARS CoV 2 pandemic (with focus on epidemiological, medical, economical, societal, technical, and cultural developments in Germany and Armenia) the CoronaSys research team, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Martin Voss, is conducting a continuous monitoring of developments and medical, technical, and social innovations concerning Covid-19.

Multiple national and international media outlets, research platforms, and scientific and organizational guidelines, briefs, and updates are screened to feed into this outlet. The rationale behind this is to support the projects' network partners in Armenia and Germany with short summaries of key developments and promising innovations that are shaping the global, German, and Armenian outbreak response and recovery.

The aim of these short briefs is to give condensed and structured information on selected innovations emerging out of the conducted horizon scanning. This could be mainstream big-ticket items or fringe subjects that are easily overlooked in the global flood of information. Some innovations will be followed through their evolution in time while others may only appear once. While subjectively selected, the briefs are descriptive in nature and leave analysis and critical interpretation to the reader. Network partners in both countries are invited to provide feedback on their interest areas and suggest particularly relevant topics for the CoronaSys Workshop series.

The CoronaSys Innovation Sheet Series is published by the Academy of the Disaster Research Unit, which is, as a non-profit limited liability company, a spin-off of the Disaster Research Unit at the Free University of Berlin. The series is part of the research project "CoronaSys: Addressing the corona pandemic in Armenia through systemic risk management", sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or if you wish to be taken on (or off) the project mailing list for CoronaSys updates, innovation sheets, and workshop invitations, please send a message to Janina Schäfer (schaefer@a-kfs.de). For general project inquiries, you may contact the team lead Sara Merkes (merkes@a-kfs.de) or the project lead Martin Voss (voss@a-kfs.de).

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1   "New" Antiviral Face Masks
2   "Dyphox" Surface Coating
3   MOVES SLC Portable ICU
4   Portable TRI- KLEEN 500UV
5   Convalescent Plasma Therapy
6   ASIC-App
7   BinaxNOW Antigen Test
8   Corona Traffic Light
9   Aproof at Home Antibody Test
10 IVAT Hygiene Tower
11 LY-CoV555 Antibody Treatment
12 4C Mortality Score
13 Regional Corona Prediction Model
14 Computer-designed Mini- Proteins
15 Covid-19 Simulator
16 Trimodulin
17 BNT162b2-Vaccine
18 SARS-COV-2 Rapidplex

19 European Corona- Map
20 FELUDA Paper Strip Test
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31 Solar- Powered Steam Generator
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33 Rapid Hospital Readiness Checklist

All previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets are available online:
http://coronasys.a-kfs.de/category/innovation-stream/

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