



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Education
Sector

COVID-19 Education Response Webinar

Maintaining learner health & wellbeing during school closure and reopening

Thursday 30th April 2020
13h00 – 14h30 CEST



AGENDA

Introduction

Beyond their important academic function, the critical role that schools play in supporting the health and wellbeing of learners, and the whole school community, has become more appreciated than ever in the current global health crisis.

In the context of school closures, a number of health risks for learners emerge across different contexts. These risks are not distributed equally, with some children destined to bear the greatest costs in the absence of mitigating actions. In some settings, there are significant concerns about children missing out on school meals, with implications for nutrition, household income and food security. Disruption in routine, social isolation and the pandemic itself is undoubtedly taking a toll on the wellbeing and mental health of many learners. In some contexts, there are emerging sexual and reproductive health risks, and increases in exposure to and experiences of violence, particularly impacting adolescent girls.

More recently, as schools start to reopen, concerns are focused on how to maintain appropriate health and hygiene standards to prevent transmission of COVID-19, to ensure that teachers and other school staff can work safely and effectively, and to anticipate the health and wellbeing needs of learners coming back after periods of confinement. Education sectors are therefore mobilizing to find ways to support these needs of learners and their families as they return to school.

This webinar, hosted by UNESCO's Section for Health and Education, sheds light on health challenges facing learners in the current climate. Experts will highlight the critical role that schools play in promoting health, nutrition and wellbeing and Ministry representatives will showcase how they are innovating to promote the health and wellbeing of learners, in the context of distance learning and the safe re-opening of schools.

Objective and guiding questions

The objective for this Webinar is to facilitate knowledge exchange on how those working in the sectors of education and health can apply evidence-informed actions to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of learners in the context of school closures and schools reopening.

The webinar will be guided by the following questions:

- What are the emerging health and wellbeing risks for learners in the context of extended school closures?
- What efforts are governments making to ensure that the health and wellbeing of all learners are maintained, during school closures and physical confinement?
- As schools start to re-open across contexts, how are the education and health sectors innovating to ensure schools are safe and healthy for everyone, including learners, teachers and all school workers?
- What lessons can be learned from existing school health approaches, and from experience in education in emergencies or health crises to inform effective response to health promotion in the context of schools re-opening?
- As schools increasingly reopen across the globe, what are the main health concerns from the perspective of learners, school personnel and parents and how can duty bearers best respond to ensure they feel safe returning to school and ensure that learners are engaged in the response?

Audience

The primary audience for this webinar are senior officials and managers of Ministries of Education directly responsible for implementing and managing national education responses to COVID-19, including school closures and school re-opening. This includes directors of national distance education programmes, as well as departments of teacher training, examination and assessment, and curriculum. Technical staff who are responsible for school health, nutrition and wellbeing of learners at a planning, policy or practice level will find it of particular value to their work. Those from other key ministries, notably health and social welfare are also encouraged to join. Other country partners supporting educational provision are also welcome, including civil society organizations, bi- and multi-lateral partners and the private sector.

Languages

The working language of the webinar is English. Written questions can be submitted from the audience in English, French and Spanish via the chat function during the webinar.

Live captions and subtitles will be available via AI powered translation in the 6 UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Technical specifications

The webinar will be hosted on Microsoft Teams. Participants do not require a Microsoft Teams account, but can connect as guests through this link: <http://www.unesco.org/covid19EDwebinar>

Thursday 30 April 2020, 13h00 – 14h30 CEST	
13:00-13:05	<p>Welcome and introduction Vibeke Jensen, Director of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO</p>
13:05 – 13:10	<p>Understanding health and education needs of young people during COVID-19 related school closures and re-openings Webinar Chaired by Chris Castle, Chief, Section of Health & Education, UNESCO</p> <p>Learner Perspectives from around the world Pre-recorded video inputs (TBC)</p>
13:10 – 13:25	<p>Findings of a new survey among more than 6,000 young people in Thailand, conducted as a joint UN effort led by UNICEF with the Children and Youth Council of Thailand Suphaphit Chaityadit, President, Children and Youth Council of Thailand, Thailand</p>
	<p>Understanding the role of school health in the context of COVID-19 Seung Lee, Senior Director, School Health and Nutrition, Save the Children</p>
13:25 – 13:35	<p>Audience questions, discussion and sharing Facilitated by Joanna Herat, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO</p>
13:35 – 14:05	<p>Country example: Preparation of schools to prevent infection and improve hygiene within a WASH context Sanet Steenkamp, Executive Director, Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture – Namibia</p>
	<p>Country example: Supporting delivery of health education online during remote learning Anna-Kay Magnus Watson, National Coordinator, Health and Family Life Education, HIV & AIDS, Ministry of Education, Jamaica (TBC)</p>
	<p>Nutrition and school feeding during school closures and re-opening: country landscapes Carmen Burbano de Lara, Director of School Feeding Division, World Food Programme, Italy</p>
	<p>Country example: Health and wellbeing during school closures in Scotland Suzanne Hargreaves, Senior Education Officer, Education Scotland</p>
14:05 – 14:30	<p>Audience questions, discussion and sharing Facilitated by Tigran Yepoyan, UNESCO Regional Health Advisor, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), Moscow</p> <p>Thank you and closing Manos Antoninis, Director, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO</p>

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UNESCO's COVID-19 Education Response



COVID19taskforce@unesco.org



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