# School reopening during COVID-19. Teacher's experience (Africa Africa)

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# What sanitary gestures should be adopted?

▶ Teaching and advising learners not to shake hands or hugging at all.

▶ Waving, elbow bumps, Foot shakes have replaced the handshake

# Establishing Safe classroom arrangements and upgrading school infrastructure

▶ Set up offices to accommodate staff with pre-existing medical conditions when they are working from School including pregnant staff.

▶ Set up Isolation room where a learner who displays Symptoms of COVID-19 is helped

▶ Approach: implement COVID-19 prevention and management guidelines using positive approaches rather than by disciplining learners/policing!

## At the gates

▶ Everyone wears a cloth mask properly at all time. Learners and employees were provided with masks. (Some Learners might not afford to purchase masks).

▶ Everyone is screened, temperature measured and their hands are sanitised. Government provides hand Sanitisers.

▶ A form to report any COVID-19 related the symptoms

▶ All passages are marked to direct and facilitate the movement in School.

▶ Maintain a distance of 1.5 to 2 meters with others

# In Class

▶ Alternation of Grades on weekly basis as practicality of implementing social distancing per class.

▶ Some neighbouring Schools have opted for having half the class one week alternating with another half the following week

▶ 1.5 m between work stations.

▶ Sanitise learners' hands and provide them with disinfectant wipes to wipe their work stations.

▶ No sharing of books, stationery, …, Educator can not touch learner's book directly during the lesson.

**How can the curriculum be adjusted to enable learning from anywhere the learners are located?**

- Due to the lockdown, Teaching and learning have been lost.

- The work in the Annual Teaching Plans cannot be completed. After consultation process with Unions the ATP is trimmed and reorganise ATP.

- Also changes in the programme of formal assessment in most subjects. Assessment are school-driven and based on context, that is what has been taught.

- Planning what to teach is a catch-up over several years (2020/1-2022/2023 period)

- In 2020 we consolidate learning after a long break, and build clear foundations for learning in 2021 and 2022

**Plan teaching for what is learned at school to be reinforced by learning at home.**

▶ Combination of Contact in Class, Print Handouts, and Mobile Learning.

▶ Although Connectivism: A learning theory for the digital age has been with us for some time, there are many teachers who started exploring the use of mobile learning only with COVID-19

▶ Many learners have no access to the internet or other means required to benefit from mobile learning.

▶ Parents are often asked to facilitate the learning of children at home and can struggle to perform this task. This is especially true for parents with limited education and resources.

**What kinds of psychosocial support would learners need and how should it be provided to them?**

▶ Through education and awareness address issues of stigma and discrimination associated with COVID-19.

▶ So many fake news myths & misconceptions on COVID-19: Talking to children about rumours related to (COVID-19).

▶ School leaders teachers and learners share correct knowledge about COVID-19.

▶ Maintaining social contact with learners who may be isolated through phone calls, text messages.

▶ Work with communities to reach out to children who may be marginalized such as those with disabilities.

**What kinds of psychosocial support would learners need and how should it be provided to them?(Cont.)**

- ▶ Engage in active listening and observation to identify signs of children who need psychological support.

- ▶ Determine what kind of support is required and either provide support or referral to specialised services.

- ▶ For instance, Some parents have lost their jobs there is no money. families under financial stress

# Violence exploitation and Gender Based Violence

► When schools close for a long time like during lockdown sexual exploitation of girls rises, teenage pregnancies become more common, particularly among the most disadvantaged communities

THANK YOU!