Institutional guidelines for facilitating Learning amid of COVID-19 pandemic: Case of University of Rwanda

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University of Rwanda: 6 Colleges since 2013

UR COLLEGES

- College of Arts and Social Sciences(CASS) >
- College of Agriculture ,Animal sciences and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM) >
- College of Business and Economics(CBE) >
- College of Medicine and Health Sciences(CMHS) >
- College of Education(CE) >
- College of Science and Technology(CST) >

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UR Colleges

There are 6 independent, self-governing colleges at The University of Rwanda.

The college system is at the heart of the University's success, giving students and academics the benefits of belonging to both a large, internationally renowned institution and to a smaller, interdisciplinary, academic college community. It enables leading academics and students across subjects and year groups, and from different cultures and countries to come together to share ideas.

All Colleges invest heavily in facilities for extensive library and IT provision, accommodation and welfare support, and sports and social events. The relatively small number of students at each college allows for close and supportive personal attention to be given to the induction, academic development and welfare of individuals.

Each college has its own Governing Body etc.

https://ur.ac.rw/?-UR-Colleges-

University Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

ANNOUNCEMENT ON MEASURES TO PREVENT CORONAVIRUS TRANSMISSION

To all UR students and staff,

In line with the Government of Rwanda's new measures to prevent Coronavirus transmission, the University of Rwanda will stop all teaching activities from Monday 16th March 2020. Students shall be informed about the resumption of teaching in due time.

Students are required to have vacated from their respective campuses by 5pm on Monday 16th March, 2020. Students should note that the transport facilitation provided by the Ministry of Education is only for secondary school students.
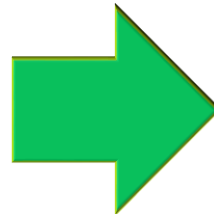
All international students are required to register with the Directors of Student Welfare in their respective campuses indicating their residences and contacts to ease their assistance, if need be. International students who stay in University hostels are not required to vacate by 5pm on Monday 16th March 2020, but will be expected to adhere to instructions as they are communicated.

In the meantime, all students are encouraged to continue their self learning, taking advantage of online teaching materials.

With due preventive measures in place, University staff are expected to report to their work stations. Line managers will then assess the feasibility of staff working from home and shall assign them clear deliverables.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Prof. Philip Cotton
Vice Chancellor

- ❖ Stopped all campus-based teaching and Learning activities since 16 March 2020
- ❖ Students given immediate order to vacate the campus
- ❖ International students requested to register with the Directorate of students welfare
- ❖ Students encouraged to continue their self-learning and take advantage of online resources
- ❖ Assess the feasibility of staff to work from home and define deliverables

University Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

UNIVERSITY of RWANDA

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Kigali, 16/03/2020
Ref: VC.0296./2020

To:
Academic Staff (All)
University of Rwanda

Dear Madam/Sir,

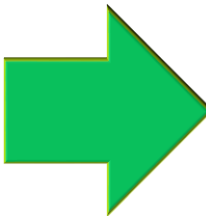Re: Uploading instructional materials to UR e-learning platform

- Taskforce members are assigned to all UR Campuses.
- In collaboration with the Heads of Departments, College DTLEs are requested to collect all teaching timetables and teaching plans and submit them to the University Director of Teaching and Learning Enhancement by close of business on Monday 16 March 2020.
- The Heads of departments and College DTLEs are requested to produce a daily implementation plan, department by department. Principals are requested to submit this plan to the DVC AAR (dvc.aar@ur.ac.rw) with copy to the University Director of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (bahafatu@gmail.com) by close of business on Monday 16 March 2020.
- This exercise will be closely monitored through daily flash reports produced by College DTLEs in collaboration with the task force members. Principals are requested to submit these reports to me (vc@ur.ac.rw) with copy to the DVC-AAR (dvc.aar@ur.ac.rw) and the University Director of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (bahafatu@gmail.com) every day until completion of the task.

Kind regards,

Prof. Philip Cotton
Vice Chancellor

CC:-DVCs (All)
-Principals (All)

- ❖ Upload instructional materials on e-Learning platform since 16 March 2020
- ❖ Guidelines provided for the uploading exercise
- ❖ Task force members nominated
- ❖ Intellectual property and copyrights to be observed strictly
- ❖ Reporting and monitoring channels well defined and communicated

University Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

University Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Ensuring the quality of online teaching and learning:

1. **The university of Rwanda has a centre "Centre for Open, Distance and e-learning-CODeL)**
2. **We have about 20 years of experience in Distance Training Programme**
3. **Modules are designed by a course team with assistance of e-learning officers and e-learning champions**
4. **Main characteristics/features for online module:**
   - Module description and storyboard
   - PPT slides, handouts and key readings/OERs
   - Assignment; monitoring of Attendance;
   - Chat; Feedback;
   - Forum; Quiz; Survey;

University Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

❖ Support of Government through Ministry of Education in delivering remote and online learning

❖ *HEC (Higher Education Council) urged to set up minimum requirements for remote learning recognition*

❖ *HEC also approved the UR implementation plan for blended learning*

University preparedness for reopening-19/10 2020

- Establishment of the Campus Committee for Covid-19 and Re-opening
- Establishment of Guidelines and Measures against Covid-19
- Installation of Required Health Facilities
- Plan for Enforcing Social Distancing in Classrooms/Labs
- Students Population and accommodation
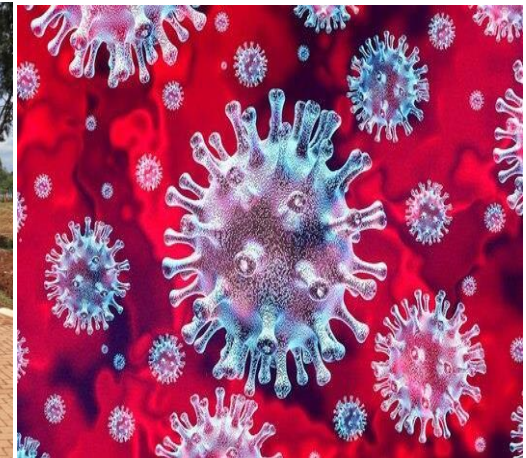
Establishment of Committees for COVID-19/ reopening

Mission

- Re-opening planning
- Organize Staff and students Covid 19 awareness campaigns
- Follow up in the enforcement of measures
- Revision of the timetable as per available space
- Students population and evacuation plan
- Conducive learning and teaching environment

Other Initiatives

- Campus Medical Team: The Campus Medical Team composed of Nurses, Health and Sanitation Officer and Wardens will play a key role in enforcing measures against Covid 19
- Students Volunteers: Volunteers from students Associations have been identified by the Guild Council to work on different shifts and the College will provide them with facilities
- Communication: Printed Posters, Social Media Platforms and Campus Radio for awareness and information sharing

Awareness of guidelines and measures against COVID-19

Goals of IPC

Protect yourself

Protect your colleagues

Protect your community
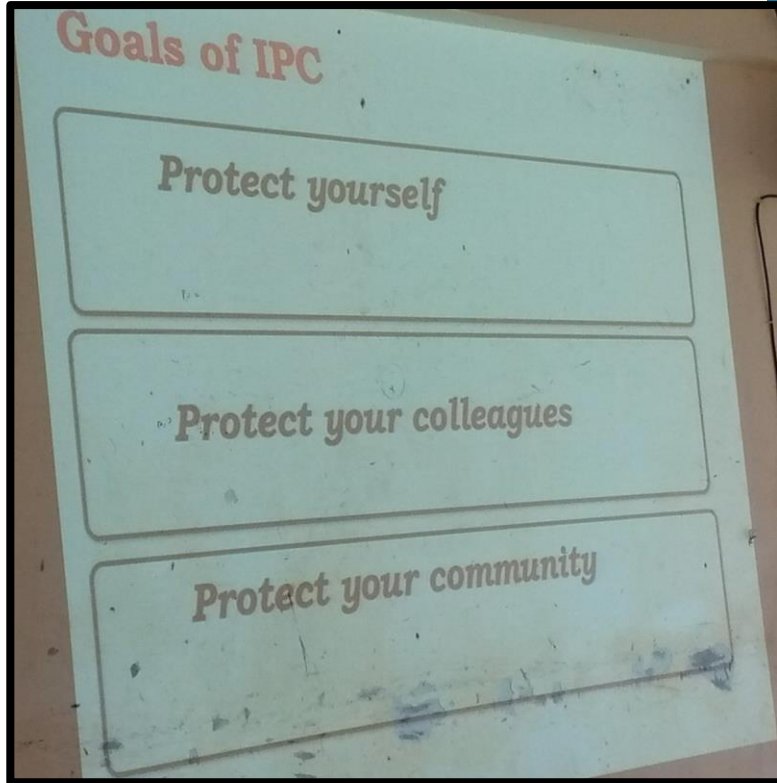
WHO
- Wear Masks
- Social Distancing
- Washing Hands

GoR
- Avoid Unnecessary gatherings
- Restrictions on Gym sports
- Enforce e-payment/services

UR Guidelines with
- Learning facilities
- Students Welfare Facilities
- Entrances
- Administrative Services
- Co-curricular activities

Specific Measures at Rukara
- Disinfestation of the area
- Work with Local Authorities

3. Installation of hand washing facilities

Entrances/3 Gates
Fixed/Mobile hand wash stations, infrared Thermometer and Computer

Administration Blocks
Automatic Hand sanitizers& Existing restrooms Facilities

Classrooms and Labs
Mobile hand wash basins &existing restrooms facilities

Restaurants and Canteens
Mobile Hand wash Facilities and Demarcation of Key serving Counters

Hostels and Clinic
Restricted areas for Unauthoriz ed persons
Use existing restroom Facilitie s/Mobile Hand wash stations

11

Classrooms

The current plan considers:
- o 1.5m*1.5m or **2.25m2 sitting space per student** in classroom/lecture rooms compared to **1m2** as per presidential order no. 51/01 of 13/07/2010 (**Total capacity= 2,803 students);**

Labs

- o 1.6m*1.8m or **2.88m2 sitting space per student** in computer labs compared to a minimum of **1.5m2** as per presidential order no. 51/01 of 13/07/2010 (**Total capacity = 147 students).**

Garden Benches

50 pieces to be installed in the Campus garden for reading and group work

In nutshell:

❑ Re-opening plans have been arranged: start from finalists

❑ Measures against the spread of Covid 19 are already in place and enforced (Masks, washing hands, social distancing etc)

❑ COVID-19 task force in place+ students volunteers

❑ Social Distancing in learning and teaching facilities and Evacuation Plan already in place

❑ Availability of facilities such hand washing facilities, outdoor benches, thermometers, completed on all campuses

❑ Implementation of blended learning

❑ Provision of accommodation and resto services on campuses

Response to COVID-19: Lessons learned

What's a legacy?

➤ Quick response to save lives of children and young people (youth)

➤ Supporting learning beyond traditional classroom environment

➤ Adaptive response towards transformation of teaching delivery

  ✓ **Blended learning: mix face-to-face with remote sessions through online learning,**

  ✓ **More parental and stakeholders' involvement is expected and required**

  ✓ **More involvement of private sector and NGOs which are already engaged in education sector**

➤ Hygiene/sanitation and preventive measures against infectious diseases in public areas (here schools and campuses) to be implemented and monitored.
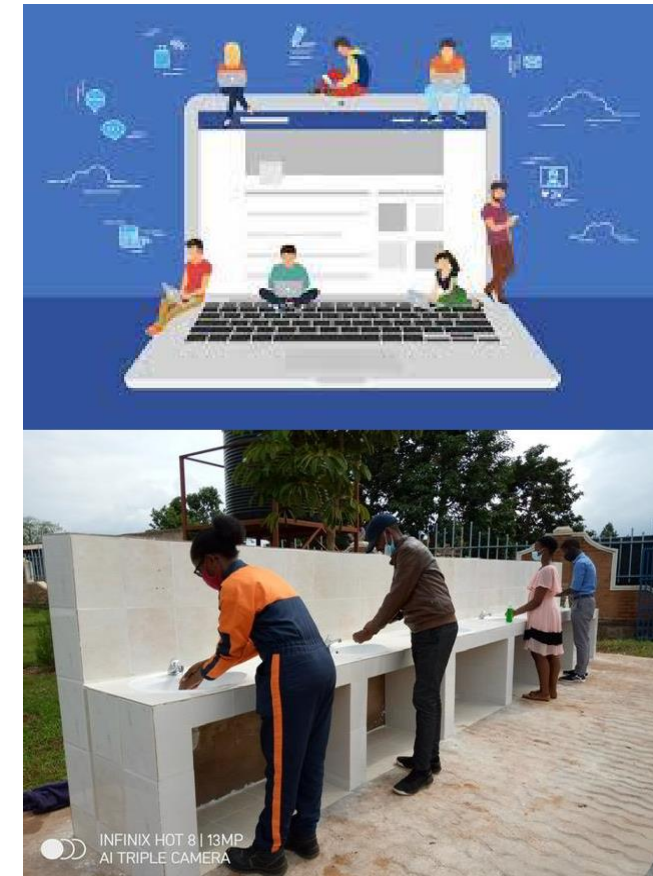
Thank you for listening!

Any questions