



Knowledge and Experience in School Reopening in Rwanda

Presentation by

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Introduction

- After 7 months of closure, schools in Rwanda are about to reopen; measures are taken and the government has established health guidelines to be followed by all schools for safe reopening with minimum risks.
- At school level especially in our school Groupe Scolaire saint Joseph Nyamasheke, we are now ready to receiving students by Friday 30th October 2020 so that the courses may resume on 2nd November 2020.
- In order to prevent and mitigate the risks of COVID-19 spread in schools, the school task force is established to ensure effective implementation of taken measures. It involves teachers, parents, a health professional well-versed in COVID-19 preparedness and response and a representative of the local authority.

Measures adopted by the school

- All students and staff must wear facemasks correctly at all times
- The school provided hand washing facilities using clean water and soap, and hand sanitizers to ensure regular hand washing practices before and after leaving school, classes, dining hall, hostels, play grounds or coming in contact with contaminated surfaces.
- Every student and staff should be screened before entering the school (temperature checks with non-contact thermometers—any student /staff with a fever of 37.5°C and above will not join classes. He or she will be isolated in a separate room to avoid contact with others; two rooms are reserved for this purpose).

Measures con'

- We rearranged classroom settings ensuring one-meter distance between a student and another. For example, a standard classroom of 6.45 x 7.9 meters should accommodate maximum of 23 students, one per desk. This leads to put students into shifts for large classes.
- We purchased additional school materials to avoid sharing teaching aids among students and teachers. If it must be shared, we will decontaminate them after every usage.
- The school organized ICT training for all teachers so that we can use both physical and digital classes to minimize teacher-students contact.

Measures con'

As COVID-19 affected negatively many families both teachers and students experienced many problems that affected negatively their lives, there is a number of children raped, some family members has been infected and community members are dying, some heads of families lost their jobs; this situation put students in need of psycho-social support; here the school counselor and other trained teachers are ready to receive a significant number of both teachers and students for guidance and counseling services



Conclusion

As this COVID-19 pandemic is continue to spread worldwide, we want schools to reopen, we want our students back at school. Teachers are ready. Let our schools don't be the next place where the next wave of the virus starts but a safe place for our kids and a good environment for studies. Education is a key for development.

Thank you for participation!