SCHOOL RE-OPENING WASH COMPONENTS AND LESSONS LEARNT CHINA

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25 June, 2020
By the 9th June, more than 197 million students have returned to school, accounting for more than 71% of the total number of students.

Three preconditions to reopen school:

- The school is located in the low epidemic risk region;
- The epidemic prevention and control measures are in place in school;
- Public health safety is guaranteed, and teachers and students feel safe.
SCHOOL RE-OPENING – COORDINATION, POLICY & GUIDELINE

- MOE established the coordination body and working group to respond COVID-19 in school;

- The government has issued “Guidelines on COVID-19 Prevention and Control” in:
  - Kindergartens
  - Primary and middle schools
  - Higher education institutes

- The government has issued “Contingency Plan of Education System Response to COVID-19 Epidemic”;

- Some actions are still ongoing...... Collaboration among MOE, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO...
WASH is the key component in the national policy & guideline to response COVID-19 in schools, some WASH actions need to be done before and after school reopen, including WASH supply stock and using, drinking water management, toilet cleaning and management, indoor air ventilation, personal hygiene, disinfection.

- Timely response to the children at most risk region...
- Online education based on the guidelines at different levels...
- Health education to the students on the special date...
SCHOOL RE-OPENING – WASH COMPONENT

Regarding the Infrastructures (supply), MOE requests that schools around the country should:

- Prepare WASH supplies (soap, hand sanitizer, etc) that can be used for at least two weeks after school reopening, and establish supply channels to ensure continuous supply;
- Provide sufficient Handwashing facility (40-50 pupil/tap)
- Increase capacity building to school staff, parents and students on IPC on handwashing with soap, cough etiquette;
- For some disadvantaged areas, it can be coordinated and resolved through the joint response and control team under the leadership of the local government

Social activities (Demand), MOE with partners developed a series of IEC (post, video) materials around COVID-19, disseminated through official website, social media account, TV, etc.

- Safe School Return Campaign (MOE, UNICEF and China CDC) - It's a nationwide campaign, reaching all 614,000 schools and all 235 million children in China (https://www.unicef.cn/covid-19/safe-school-return)
The type of education:
- Online education makes a great proportion in the total education, as the activities shown above, most education are conducted through internet.
- The strategy to this change: finance of supporting digital access to digital connection in families in some schools has been implemented.

The content of measures:
- Disinfection
- Lifestyle
- Physical distance
LESSONS LEARNT ON WASH FOR SCHOOL RE-OPENING

What have you noticed during school-reopening on WASH?

• More school handwashing facilities have been constructed
• Behavior change happened (handwashing with soap, Cough etiquette, drink safe water, physical distance)

What have you learnt?

• WASH is basic, need to be prioritized, cost-effective way
• COVID-19 provided a uncommon opportunity for WASH, and
• Re-assessment of our orientation when facing the new challenge

What you want to share with other countries?

• Reopen school ASAP after COVID controlled, and
• Provide support to avoid inequality issue such as digital divide