Schooling in the time of COVID-19

A virtual school folder filled with resources relevant for schooling in the time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries, and the Europe/Eurasia Region is no exception. Most countries in the Region closed schools at some point between February and July this year as part of COVID-19- related public health and social measures. The central issue in schooling decisions is how to proceed with safe schooling through an understanding of the public health risks to children and their social contacts, but also with a focus on the many benefits of schooling to children, families and the community.

UNICEF and WHO have created numerous guidance documents and collected significant evidence related to children and youth and COVID-19, particularly in the school setting. While these materials are available through websites and other channels, this joint UNICEF/ECARO and WHO Regional Office for Europe Schooling Resource Pack provides an easy, one-stop-shop for information suitable for parents of school-aged children, teachers and school administrators in the form of practical tools and tips.

This resources pack divides materials into three main target audiences:

1. **Parents/caregivers**
2. **Teachers**
3. **Authorities and school administrators**

For each group, materials are provided in the format of one-page documents plus links to many other resources from both UNICEF and WHO. Posters can be downloaded and printed.

For more information, contact the UNICEF and/or WHO office in your country

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for every child
Europe and Central Asia

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Target Audience 1:
Parents/caregivers

Target Audience **1**

UNICEF resources

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) parenting tips.** A set of tips developed by UNICEF and Parenting for Lifelong Health initiative to help parents and caregivers to positively engage with their children while dealing with COVID-19 challenges.

- **Supporting your child's mental health as they return to school during COVID-19.** Tips for parents and caregivers on how to help children navigate some of the complicated emotions they may be facing with going back to school.

- **5 ways to help keep children learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Tips for parents and caregivers to help children learning at home.

- **What will a return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic look like?** Information and tips for parents and caregivers on what to expect and how to support young students.

- **How to talk to your child about coronavirus disease.** 8 tips to help comfort and protect children.

- **COVID-19 and masks: Tips for families.** Expert information on masks and COVID-19, how to wear and look after masks correctly, and ideas on how to successfully introduce them to family members.

WHO resources

- **What you should know about COVID-19.** A set of questions and answers about COVID-19 and recommendations on how to protect ourselves and others.

- **What you should know about children and adolescents and COVID-19.** A set of questions and answers on how COVID-19 affects children and adolescents.

- **Advice on the use of masks for children.** A set of questions and answers about when and how children should wear a mask.

- **Hand washing poster.** This printable poster promotes good hand hygiene and can be placed at home to encourage children wash their hands.

- **What to do if your child has symptoms of COVID-19.** A brief guide for parents/caregivers on how to recognize COVID-19 symptoms and act to protect children and others.

- **Keep your child healthy: advice for parents.** Recommendations for parents/caregivers on how to support children in maintaining important healthy habits.

- **How can you help protect your child from COVID-19.** Recommendations for parents and caregivers on simple precautions that help reduce chances of being infected or spread the disease to others.

Joint resources

- **Parenting for lifelong health website**: Parenting for Lifelong Health provides open-access online parenting resources during COVID-19

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Target Audience 2:
Teachers

Target Audience 2

UNICEF resources

- **Guidance for Safe and Healthy Journeys to School. During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond.** This guidance provides specific tips and practical steps for measures to help keep students safe on school premises, but also on the journey to school. It contains checklists for education authorities, school administration and teachers, parents/caregivers and students to support safe and healthy journeys to school.

- **Guidance and tips for schools on how to strengthen communication with parents and caregivers.** This guidance helps teachers and schools strengthen communication with parents and families.

WHO resources

- **What you should know about COVID-19.** A set of questions and answers about COVID-19 and recommendations on how to protect ourselves and others.

- **What you should know about children and adolescents and COVID-19.** A set of questions and answers on how COVID-19 affects children and adolescents

- **Advice on the use of masks for children.** A set of questions and answers about when and how children should wear a mask

- **Hand washing poster.** This printable poster promotes good hand hygiene and can be placed at school to encourage children wash their hands.

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Target Audience 3:
Authorities and school administrators

Target
Audience
3

UNICEF resources

- **Promising practices for equitable remote learning.** Using data from household surveys (MICS and DHS) and information on national education responses to school closures in over 120 countries, this brief explores potential promising practices for equitable remote learning.

- **Guidance to developing a feedback mechanism at local level for schools during COVID-19.** The guidance describes a process of setting up a feedback mechanism as an integrated system, whereby it can receive and manage programmatic feedback, communicating with caregivers, communities/citizens during emergencies and recovery response, ensuring their involvement.

- **Questionnaire for parents. Questionnaire for students. Questionnaire for teachers.** These questionnaires can help schools get a better understanding on perceptions and views re schools re-opening in context of COVID-19.

- **Guidance for Safe and Healthy Journeys to School. During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond.** This guidance provides specific tips and practical steps for measures to help keep students safe on school premises, but also on the journey to school. It contains checklists for education authorities, school administration and teachers, parents/caregivers and students to support safe and healthy journeys to school.

WHO resources

- **Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19.** This annex provides considerations for decision-makers and educators on how or when to reopen or close schools in the context of COVID-19.

Joint resources

- **Interim Guidance for COVID-19 prevention and control in schools.** This document was created in March 2020 to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in schools and other educational facilities. All of the recommendations continue to be relevant. In addition to the information covered, the use of masks in both adults and children has been more closely studied and is now recommended in certain circumstances. See mask use guidance below for details.

- **Advice on the use of masks for children in the community in the context of COVID-19.** This guidance provides specific considerations for the use of non-medical masks, also known as fabric masks, by children as a means for source control in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- **COVID-19 and its implications for protecting children online.** This technical note sets out some of the key priorities and recommendations on how to mitigate those risks and promote positive online experiences for children.

- **Safe to Learn during COVID-19: Recommendations to prevent and respond to violence against children in all learning environments.** This document provides recommendations on how to prevent violance against children in all learning environments