

C E M ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Towards the New Normal

This COVID-19 pandemic has popularized the catchphrase, 'the New Normal'. The Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines with Amendments as of July 02, 2020 defines it as "the emerging behaviors, situations, and minimum public health standards that will be institutionalized in common or routine practices and remain even after the pandemic while the disease is not totally eradicated through means such as widespread immunization. These include actions that will become second nature to the general public as well as policies such as bans on large gatherings that will continue to remain in force"¹.

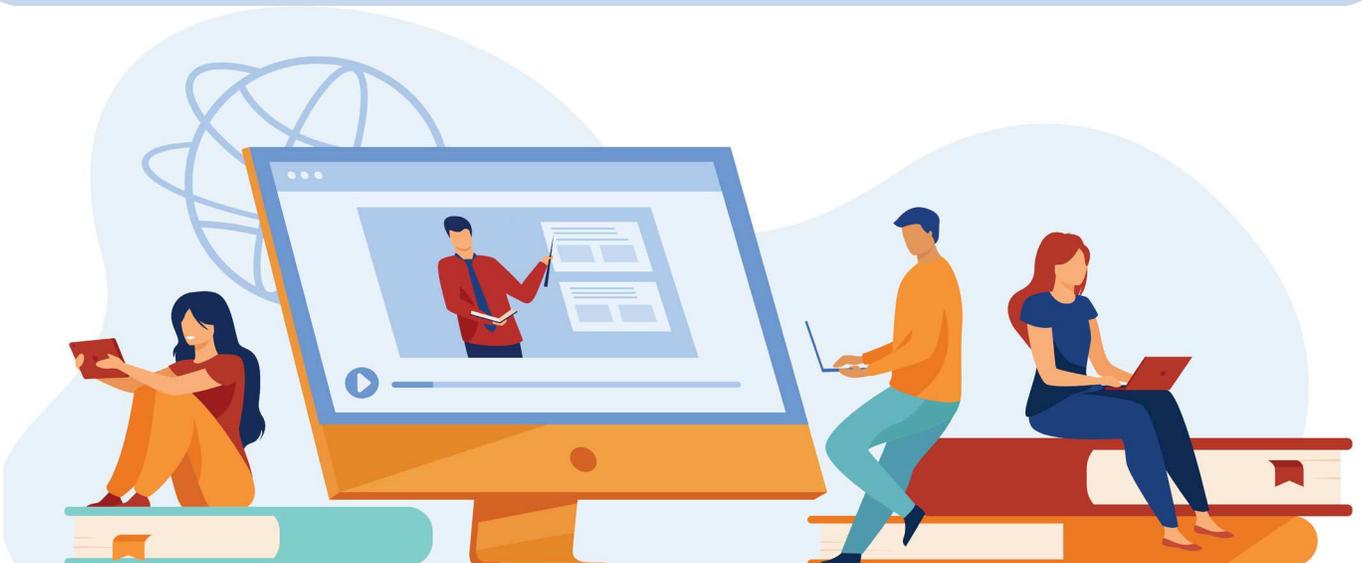
Education in the New Normal involves a whole lot of online and blended learning. In fact, terms such as online classes, virtual classrooms, distance and remote learning have become frequent search topics on the web since this global catastrophe flared-up. Educators turn to the internet to look for creative and manageable ways to make the students' learning journey personal and useful to our current situation. There are a lot of online tools and resources available, however teachers should keep in mind that sound pedagogy should influence the use of these technologies and not the other way around. And while most of us argue about

the best way to deliver instruction to students who are at home, let us not discount the fact that learners must "Maslow before Bloom", that is, their primary needs should be prioritized if we really aim an impactful learning experience for them.

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STUDENTS MUST **MASLOW**
BEFORE THEY **BLOOM**

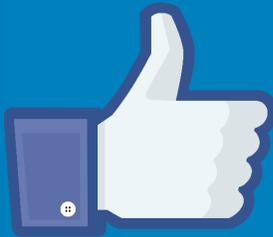


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NEWSLETTER

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To ensure that formal education continues despite these challenging times, basic education institutions are required by the Department of Education (DepEd) to submit a Learning Continuity Plan and their plan for compliance with minimum health standards, in accordance to the guidelines set by Department of Health, Inter-Agency Task Force, and the Office of the President. Specific learning delivery modalities such as blended and online learning delivery modes through the Learning Resources portal and DepEd Commons; use of TV and radio; and learning modules and packets both in print and digital format, should be adopted in the context of their locality as covered in DepEd Memo No. 12 s. 2020².

For higher education, the recommendations of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) should be adopted by higher education institutions (HEIs), while for technical vocational education and training (TVET), trainings and assessments may be conducted or provided by Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) and TESDA Technology Institutions (TTIs) in compliance with TESDA Guidelines and minimum public health standards¹.

The education sector may be one of the most vulnerable amidst this crisis, but if educators, the government and private partners and families team up towards a common goal, these challenges will become more bearable.

¹ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/06jun/20200702-omnibus-guidelines-on-the-implementation-of-community-quarantine-in-the-philippines.pdf>

² https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DO_s2020_012.pdf



COMMUNITY CORNER



We, at CEM, are dedicated to our mission of helping schools improve the quality of teaching and learning through measurement and research even during these times of emergencies. To ensure continuity of service to our stakeholders and productivity of the staff, we adopt alternative work arrangements while vigilantly monitoring the situation for everyone's best interest.



We have strengthened our health program by continuously providing each member with necessary encouragement for mental wellness and campaigns related to handwashing, respiratory etiquettes, wearing of mask, social distancing and COVID-19 testing.



And as we move towards the new normal, we call everyone to be kind to and considerate of others by doing small acts of personal social responsibility like managing one's own behavioral changes, being sensitive to those who experience fear and anxiety in relation to COVID-19, tweaking one's consumption habits, and making social distancing and staying healthy as mantras of saving one's own life and that of others.