



**Week: 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. – 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 2020**

**Big Idea of the Week:**

**Together small actions make a big difference –  
Let's support our children to learn safely!**

We all have a part to play in making schools safe places to learn and work.

Schools are a part of our communities. The everyday actions we take to keep our communities safe help keep our schools safe too. And by keeping schools safe, we protect our whole community.

**Students:** Be a leader in keeping yourself, your school, family and community safe. Encourage your friends and fellow students to put safety first and always wear your mask.

**Teachers:** Be a role model for students and other staff by always wearing a mask over your mouth and nose and making sure students wear theirs. Know how to identify sick learners, isolate them, and inform health and school authorities.

**Parents/caregivers:** Ensure that your child wears a cloth mask when leaving the house and that the mask is washed each day. Do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. Talk with your child about why it is important to take these actions to keep one another safe.

**Communities:** Together our small actions can make a big difference. Let's support our schools and our children to learn and grow to their full potential!

**Corona fet na we all fet!**

#### **Suggestions for people to interview**

- Minister of Education
- District Deputy Directors of Education
- School Heads
- Head of Parent-Teacher Associations
- Teachers
- Students
- Parents
- Community members
- Head of EducAid
- Head of Rising Academy

#### **Suggestions for questions for interviews and panel discussions**

- What challenges do students, parents, teachers, and schools face as the coronavirus continues in Sierra Leone?
- What are recommendations for addressing these challenges? What have we seen work well and help schools and communities succeed in protecting safety of students, teachers, staff, and their families?
- How can communities support schools in protecting students, teachers, and staff?

## **Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools**

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/key-messages-and-actions-for-covid-19-prevention-and-control-in-schools>

We all have a part to play in making schools safe places to learn and work.

### **Actions for Students**

- Immediately tell your teacher if you are sick or your friend is sick.
- Work with your friends to encourage one another and your fellow students to put safety first.
- Share school health behaviors with your friends.
  - Promote handwashing with soap and water or use of hand sanitizers that are at least 60% alcohol-based.
  - Cough and sneeze into your upper arm or sleeve.
  - Wear a cloth face mask over your mouth and nose when you leave your house, on your way to and from school, and while at school. Do not pull it down or remove it when speaking.
  - Always keep a safe distance of at least one meter or arms-stretched length from others. Limit close face-to-face contact with others in school and to and from.
  - Tell your parents, another family member, or a caregiver if you feel sick, and ask to stay home.
- In a situation like this, it is normal to feel sad, worried, confused, scared or angry. Know that you are not alone and talk to someone you trust, like your parent or teacher so that you can help keep yourself and your school safe and healthy.
- Ask questions, educate yourself and get information from reliable sources.
- Be a leader in keeping yourself, your school, family and community healthy.
  - Share what you learn about preventing disease with your family and friends, especially with younger children.
  - Model good practices such as sneezing or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands, especially for younger family members.
- Come up with new ways to have fun while keeping social distance from one another.
- Don't stigmatize your peers or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn't follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age or ability or gender.

### **Actions for Teachers**

- Implement all COVID-19 prevention and control measures in the classroom and school grounds.
- Ensure that the school health measures are fully implemented in accordance with prevailing guidelines from the Government and its partners.

- Identify sick learners, isolate them, and inform relevant health authorities including your school's safety and emergency contacts. Each school has a trained staff.
- Call 117 if you suspect that a learner or colleague has symptoms.
- Always prioritize your safety and that of learners.
- Monitor classroom attendance daily and report absenteeism to the School Management.
- Ensure that all learners are given quality lessons and adequately prepared.
- Emphasize that students can do a lot to keep themselves and others safe.
  - Introduce the concept of social distancing.
  - Focus on good health behaviors, such as covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow and washing hands.
  - Remind students that they can model healthy behaviors for their families.
- Encourage students to prevent and address stigma.
  - Discuss the different reactions they may experience and explain these are normal reactions to an abnormal situation. Encourage them to express and communicate their feelings.
- Incorporate relevant health education into other subjects.
  - Science can cover the study of viruses, disease transmission and the importance of mask use.
  - Social studies can focus on the history of pandemics and evolution of policies on public health and safety.
  - Media literacy lessons can empower students to be critical thinkers and makers, effective communicators and active citizens.

### **Actions for Parents/Caregivers and Community Members**

- Coordinate with the school to receive information and ask how you can support school safety efforts (through parent-teacher committees, etc.).
- Ensure all in your home follow the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines.
- Ensure that your child washes his/her hands frequently with soap and water, or uses a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol-based before, during and after school.
- Ensure that your child wears a cloth face mask when leaving the house for school and that the mask is washed each day.
- Do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. If the child has fever, tiredness, and cough, call 117.
- Teach and model good hygiene practices for your children
  - Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol-based.

- Cough and sneeze into your elbow and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Ensure that safe drinking water is available and toilets or latrines are clean and available at home.
- Ensure waste is safely collected, stored and disposed of.
- Encourage your children to ask questions and express their feelings with you and their teachers.
- Remember that your child may have different reactions to stress; be patient and understanding.
- Prevent stigma by using facts and reminding students to be considerate of one another.