

**REPORT OF THE WEBINAR ON SCHOOL SAFETY FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS
AND CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF SCHOOL REOPENING IN THE STATE
WITH COVID PROTOCOLES**



Date & Time: 30/10/2021 | 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Jointly Organized by
KSDMA, UNICEF, SPEHERE INDIA & IAG KERALA



Introduction & Background

Schools across the States in India called off in-person classes beginning in March 2020 to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In most of the states and districts, schools are closed for the duration of the academic year. Across the country, state governments are making plans to reopen schools for the next academic year, and in Kerala, government has declared the reopening of schools from 1 November 2021. In order to reopen schools safely and mitigate disease spread Kerala State Disaster Management Authority organized a webinar to clarify the doubts and questions of parents, teachers and children in the state.

The online awareness program was conducted by Kerala Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with UNICEF, Sphere India and IAG Kerala to allay the concerns regarding the reopening of the schools in the state which is slowly recovering from the pandemic.

Session Details

Dr. Anish T S, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Govt Medical College Thiruvananthapuram handled the session and cleared the doubts and concerns regarding the safety of children after the school reopening amidst the existing Covid threats. Ms. Indu V, Architect, KSDMA moderated the session and asked questions to the resource person on behalf of the participants. Questions on social distancing, wearing of masks, cleaning and hygiene, recreation facilitation and social gatherings, bio bubble system and mental health concerns of children etc. were asked in the session.

The precautions to be taken by parents and teachers were explained by doctor Anish. Doctor said that Slight fever and cold or any kind of health issues in children should be given attention and consulted with a doctor and School management should make sure that the washrooms have soap and properly working exhaust fans. The concept of bio-bubble was explained which would

decrease the spread of infection to a larger community. Doctor Anish further suggested that Covid protocols should be strictly maintained in the school among students and other staffs and in the situation of children having serious health issues like cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular issues, they are recommended to attend online class itself. Peer group interaction and socialization were suggested as means to enhance the mental health of children. Use of N95 masks or multi-layered cloth masks were recommended for children.

Participants

193 people participated in the program. The entire program was very informative and need of the hour considering the prevailing Covid status in the state amidst the preparation for school reopening.

Snapshot of the programme

