MINISTRY OF HEALTH	**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**
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Number: 796/BYT-MT Regarding guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control when organizing teaching and learning on campus	Ha Noi, February 21, 2022

To: - Ministry of Education and Training;

Implement the Resolution No.128/NQ-CP dated on October 11, 2021 of the Government promulgating the provisional Regulation “Safe, flexible, effective control of COVID-19 pandemic", base on the current pandemic situation in the world and in Vietnam, the rate of COVID-19 vaccine coverage is high nationwide. The Ministry of Health has developed and supplemented a number of guidelines for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in schools to create convenient conditions for educational institutions when organizing teaching and learning on campus, specifically as follows:

1. Regarding the handling process when detecting a case of F0 in an educational institution:

   Step 1: When there is a F0 case, immediately notify the Principal/the school’s Steering Committee/ the school's COVID-19 prevention and control safety team. The school health officer or the school's Steering Committee for COVID-19 prevention and control immediately transferred the case of F0 to the school's temporary isolation room along a separate route that was threaded.

   Step 2: The school's principal / steering committee / COVID-19 prevention and control safety team immediately notify the commune health station or health facility that has been assigned to support the school in the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide immediate support.

   Step 3: For the class with F0 students:

   - The homeroom teacher let the students sit still. School health officials and the school's Steering Committee/Safety Team for COVID-19 prevention and control, commune health officials organize an investigation to identify F1 cases according to the guidance of the health sector (the determine the case as F1 in accordance with the Official Letter No. 11042 / BYT - DP dated December 29, 2021 of the Ministry of Health on adjusting the definition of COVID - 19 case).

- School medical staff and the School's Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, and commune health staff to organize a rapid antigen test immediately for all students of that class, if the school, if there is a positive rapid antigen test results for SARS - CoV - 2 virus, it is identified as F0 and handled according to regulations.

- If the students are not F1 and the rapid antigen test results are negative: send these students back to school as normal.

- If a student is F1 and the rapid antigen test result is negative (follow the Official Letter No. 762/BYT - DP dated on February 21, 2022 of the Ministry of Health on medical isolation for COVID-19 cases and other close contact cases):

+ Isolate , monitor health at home for 5 days and test (RT - PCR or rapid antigen) on the 5th day for students who are F1 and have received enough doses of COVID-19 vaccine (recorded on the certificate of COVID-19 vaccination, electronic health book or PC Covid application software) as prescribed, the last dose is given in at least 14 days or have recovered from COVID-19 within 03 months by the time of being identified as F1 (with discharge certificate / certificate of recovery from COVID-19), cases with negative test results with the virus SARS - CoV - 2 on the 5th day are able to return to school, the school and students' parents continue to monitor the health of students for the next 5 days and guide students to implement 5K protocols.

+ Isolate, monitor health at home, stay for 07 days and test (RT-PCR or rapid antigen) on the 7th day for students who are F1 and have not been vaccinated or have not had enough doses of COVID-19 vaccine, cases with negative test results for SARS - CoV - 2 virus on the 7th day can return to school, the school and students' parents continue to monitor the health of students in the next 03 days and guide students to implement 5K protocols.

+ During the process of isolation, health monitoring, if there are abnormal signs of health such as cough, fever, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of taste, ... or other suspicious symptoms, immediately notify the commune health station, the school for monitoring and handling according to regulations.

- Particularly for preschools, kindergartens and children's groups: If there is one case of rapid antigen test positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus (F0) in the class, all children in that class should be isolated, health monitoring at home, accommodation for 07 days and testing (RT - PCR or rapid antigen) on day 7. Cases with negative test results for SARS - CoV - 2 virus on day 7 are allowed to return to school, parents and homeroom teachers will continue to monitor their children's health for the next 3 days, if there are abnormal signs of health such as cough, fever, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of taste , ... or other suspected symptoms , the parent / homeroom teacher should immediately notify the commune Health Station , the Principal / Steering Committee / COVID-19 Prevention and Control Safety Team of the school to monitor and handle according to regulations.

Step 4:

- For the class with F0 students: After identifying the subject as F1, take the non-F1 students to the backup classroom and disinfect the entire classroom.

- For students of other classes:

+ If there are no contact, communication between these students with F0, these students can go to school as normal.

+ If it is determined that a student has been in close contact (F1) with the F0 case, then conduct a rapid antigen test for the F1 and handle F1 as step 3.

** Note: In case F0 is identified at home, the parents should keep the student at home and immediately notify the school and the commune health station. Schools, Commune Health Stations track down related F1 students and handle these F1 as above.*

2. The department of health is requested to not require all students to be tested before they can return to school. Test is only applied for suspected cases (fever, cough, shortness of breath, ... or other suspected symptoms) or have contacted to F0.

3. The organization of the student's boarding school.

If the school organizes day-boarding for children, the school must fully implement pandemic prevention and control measures under the guidance of the Health sector and the Education and Training sector, in which the principle of limiting exchanges, contact between students in the same class and between classes must be followed.

- Prioritize the organization of eating, sleeping and resting right in the classroom; Students in each class eat and sleep separately in that class, not with other classes.

- Students have separate meals, do not share personal items, wash hands with clean water and soap before and after eating.

- Sanitize and disinfect the canteen after each meal section (if meals are organized in the school canteen).

- Ensure food safety to prevent food poisoning.

The Ministry of Health kindly requests the Ministry of Education and Training to base on the above-mentioned guidelines to edit and supplement the Handbook on ensuring safety against COVID-19 in schools and other guiding documents on COVID-19 prevention and control of the Ministry of Education and Training.