WHAT WILL A RETURN-TO-SCHOOL DURING A PANDEMIC LOOK ALIKE?

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Life during the COVID-19 pandemic is difficult for parents and children alike. The return to school is an important and hopefully welcome step, but you and your children likely have many questions. Here’s the latest information on what to expect and how you can support your young student. We are slowly seeing an increasing number of children return to the classroom. More than 1 billion students are still out of school due to nationwide school closures, but more than 70 countries have announced plans to reopen schools and hundreds of millions of students have returned in recent weeks.

Given the difficulty of the situation and variation across the globe, countries are in different stages regarding how and when they plan to reopen schools. These decisions will usually be made by national or state governments, often in discussion with local authorities. When deciding whether to reopen schools, authorities should consider the benefits and risks across education, public health and socio-economic factors, in the local context. The best interest of every child should be at the center of these decisions, using the best available evidence, but exactly how this will look will vary from school to school.

Decisions on control measures in schools and school closures and openings should be consistent with decisions on other physical distancing and public health response measures within the community. Generally schools are not opening in countries as an isolated action, but as part as a number of actions related to opening back the country, such as reopening factories, public transport, commercial business.
It’s crucial that schools plan ahead and look at what additional measures they can put in place to help ensure students, teachers and other staff are safe when they return and communities are confident in sending their students back to school.

Going back to school will likely look a little different from what you and your child were used to before. It’s possible that schools may reopen for a period of time and then a decision may be made to close them again temporarily, depending on the local context. Because of the evolving situation, authorities will need to be flexible and ready to adapt to help keep every child safe.

References:

www.unicef.org.com
“Quality Education for All during Covid 19”