

How to Carry Out Epidemic Prevention and Control After School Starts with the COVID-19 Epidemic Mitigated? A Case Study of Experimental High School in Wangmo County, Guizhou Province, China

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Abstract: *In order to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on student learning, the Chinese government has launched a “School’s Out, But Class’s On” strategy. With the further control of the epidemic, schools in some provinces have begun to resume classes, but the epidemic prevention and control work should not be lax after the class is resumed. Guizhou is one of the provinces where the middle schools and senior high schools resumed classes earlier. The epidemic prevention and control is still very critical even the school was resumed. I herein used the Experimental High School in Wangmo County, Guizhou Province as an example to introduce the epidemic prevention and control strategies after the school resumes classes.*

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WANGMO County is located in the southwest of Guizhou Province, with remote terrain. Affected by natural conditions and history, economic development is relatively backward. Wangmo Experimental High School is a full-time boarding high school with a total of 2,688 students. In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, Wangmo County Experimental High School adopted a gridded management strategy for prevention and control.

According to the arrangement of the Guizhou Provincial Department of Education, the senior high school students (12th graders) and senior middle school students (8th graders) began to return to class on March 16th, 2020 and gradually entered the normal teaching process.

Aiming at the problems of school opening and students returning to school safely, Wangmo Experimental High School formulated the “General Plan for Resuming Experimental High School in Wangmo County during the COVID-19 epidemic” and a series of subprograms. The issue of epidemic prevention and control during the resumption was regulated. During the student’s return to school, Wangmo Experimental High School set up baggage disinfection checkpoints, temperature measurement (health code scanning) checkpoints, and the homeroom teacher report office (signing a letter of commitment) at the school entrance. Students wear disposable medical masks throughout the school, actively cooperate with body temperature detection and enter dormitories or classrooms along the prescribed route, thereby ensuring that students return to school safely and start school smoothly.

After returning to school, in order to ensure the normal study life of students on campus, the school adopts the following preventive and control measures:

Dividing Areas and Grid Management

The school implements the division of regional responsibilities, dividing the campus area into apartments, teaching buildings, cafeteria and other areas. Any problem that occurs in the corresponding area is the responsibility of the person in charge of the corresponding area. At the same time, the school set up the following working groups: teaching support group, life support group, prevention and control material group, campus health group, student health group, and teacher and student security group.

- (1) The teaching support group is mainly responsible for the order of daily teaching activities in the school, collecting student learning, teaching tests, and attendance of teachers and students. Timely follow-up and report on faculty, staff and students absent due to illness.
- (2) The life support group is responsible for the normal meals of teachers and students throughout the school. Schools implement off-peak dining. Teachers and students pass the fixed temperature detection door, and those with qualified temperature enter the cafeteria to eat. Teachers and students bring their own tableware. When dining, each person has a table, facing one direction, 1.5 meters apart from the front, back, left and right.

- (3) The prevention and control material group is responsible for the storage and distribution of prevention and control materials. The school distributes materials such as face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant and gloves to teachers and students for free every day.
- (4) The campus health group sterilizes classrooms, dormitories, libraries, restaurants, sports areas and other places daily. Have soft-soap, soap, and quick-drying hand sanitizer in the hand washing area.
- (5) The student health group conducts temperature tests on all teachers and students every morning, noon and evening, and implements a “daily report” and “zero report” system. They recycle old face masks. At the same time, they broadcast the knowledge and precautions related to epidemic prevention and control continuously during the recess.
- (6) Teachers’ and students’ security group is responsible for the safety office. The campus implements enclosed management, and teachers and students are prohibited from going out unless there are special circumstances. Once out, students need to isolate themselves for 14 days before returning to school.

Implementing Responsibilities and Comprehensive Control

In order to strengthen the responsibility management, the school clearly recognizes the work responsibilities of personnel at all levels:

- (1) The principal fulfills the main responsibility of school epidemic prevention and control. Take it as a top priority, do scientific management, implement it effectively, and strengthen supervision.
- (2) The homeroom teacher manages the students in the class and does a good job of preventing and controlling the epidemic. Supervise the completion of daily learning tasks and epidemic prevention and control, and do psychological counseling.
- (3) Other teachers assist the homeroom teacher in managing the students in the class. Help to do the epidemic prevention and control and teaching.
- (4) Parents of students cooperate with the school to improve the school’s epidemic prevention and control investigation. Need to take the initiative to communicate with the homeroom teacher and subject teachers to form a home-school synergy.
- (5) Students obey the arrangements of the homeroom teacher and subject teachers to actively cooperate with the epidemic prevention and control work.
- (6) School janitors strengthen their awareness of the position, prevent the spread of the epidemic to schools, protect the health of teachers and students, and maintain campus stability.
- (7) Residential management staff implements closed management of student dormitories. Check the information of the students who are staying, and verify the real name and temperature of the personnel entering the dormitory.

- (8) Cafeteria workers strengthen awareness of epidemic prevention and control. Wear disposable hats, masks, and gloves as required avoiding direct contact with fresh meat and poultry.
- (9) School medical doctors are responsible for school health care and epidemic prevention and control. To ensure the health management of teachers and students; organize, direct, supervise and inspect the implementation of disinfection in schools.

Routine Teaching Activities Centered on Teaching

The quality of teaching is the foundation of the school's survival and development. While doing a good job in epidemic prevention and control, education and teaching must be carried out in an orderly and normal manner. Teachers should formulate teaching quality standards. After formal resumption, the school will test and analyze the data of students and carry out hierarchical teaching activities. At the same time, due to the implementation of online lessons during "School's Out, But Class's On", some students failed to participate or the results were not satisfactory. Therefore, this group of students needs to be brought together, and teachers provide additional guidance, so as to ensure the quality of teachers' teaching and solve the learning problems of them.

Strict Supervision and Strengthen Discipline

In order to strengthen supervision and management, the school clarified the work regulations:

- (1) Supervise the performance of faculty and staff in their posts and implement their duties.
- (2) Supervise the situation of epidemic prevention and control, strictly prevent and control input, and strictly prevent and control the spread.
- (3) Supervise the education and teaching situation.
- (4) Supervise the moral situation of teachers.

After the school resumed classes, a series of prevention and control measures adopted by Wangmo Experimental High School showed the following highlights:

Multi-Faceted Epidemic Prevention and Control

It can be seen from the school epidemic prevention and control that Wangmo County Experimental High School epidemic prevention and control involves many details. From the whole school's general plan to various detailed sub-plans, from a small point to an entire area. As a result, the situation of prevention and control of epidemic situation with full coverage and no dead ends has been formed.

Standardization and Systematization of Epidemic Prevention and Control

The division of labor in the prevention and control of the experimental high school in Wangmo County is clear, with its own duties. Schools take epidemic prevention and control, education and teaching as top priorities, fully improve reporting and distribution, and coordinate overall work.

Multi-Sectorial Cooperation to Form an Epidemic Prevention and Control Model of “Public Security + Health + Education”

To ensure the safety of teachers and students, the school contacted the public security, health and education departments, and the three jointly stationed the school to prevent and control the epidemic. Thus, a rigorous epidemic protection wall was built for the teachers and students of the school, and the teachers and students were escorted safely.

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