

Initiatives

Public service is in the DNA of every UPD constituent, and throughout the years, various units, colleges and even student organizations began initiatives to address the pandemic.

Perhaps the most prominent and wide-reaching ones were the two isolation facilities this year. The CSSP, the UP Health Service (UPHS) with the help of Act as One PH and the Quezon City local government opened Kanlungang Palma (KP) sa Panahon ng Pandemya or Kanlungang Palma on Apr. 21.

Designed as a temporary isolation facility for suspected and probable COVID-19 cases, KP had 50 beds, but could only accommodate 26 patients at most, with the sponsorship of Act as One PH. Palma Hall, usually one of the busiest buildings on campus, was selected as classes were suspended and many employees were working from home. KP had to close on July 10 as the second semester began.

Soon, another isolation facility, Silungang Molave, (SiM) was reopened on Aug. 15 at Molave Residence Hall. The building had been under renovation and was repurposed as an isolation facility instead. SiM is a 24/7 facility with a 39-bed capacity distributed into 20 beds for mild COVID-19 cases and 19 for suspected and probable cases.

On its own, the UPHS successfully integrated telemedicine into nearly all of their regular and specialty clinic services, serving their clients from the safety of their homes.

When the pandemic hit in March and it became clear that a shortage of face shields was imminent, the Colleges of Science (CS), Engineering as well as the College of Fine Arts' Fablab sprung into action, commissioning all of their 3D printers to make face shield frames.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA) solicited help from stranded students and available volunteers to assemble shields from the frames, and the three colleges collectively managed to produce and distribute over 3,000 face shields within the first four months.

On its own, CS sent their own qPCR machines to satellite testing centers to increase the volume of tests. It also sent supplies such as alcohol and surgical masks to public hospitals and manpower in the form of their



Silungang Molave logo



PGH frontliners drinking Lucal

own scientists to partner with both the private and public sectors to augment skilled personnel to perform COVID-19 tests.

The College of Home Economics (CHE) Clothing, Textiles and Interior Design Department (CTID) published an infographic guide on managing interior spaces to help those working from home to adjust.

CTID lecturer Mich Dulce formed The Manila Protective Gear Sewing Club to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontliners, producing 150 PPE and distributing them to various hospitals with the aim of making more. They are also working on do-it-yourself face mask designs.

The Asian Institute of Tourism Alumni Association (AITAA) launched “AITAA COVID-19 Student Assistance” and managed to help six AIT students financially.

To help parents cope with a tighter budget, one Hotel Restaurant and Institution Management class of CHE created The Cupboard Chef, a compilation of easy-to-prepare recipes of Filipino favorites. The College also partnered with professional nutritionist associations to produce “Farm to Fork,” a series of infographics to ensure food safety at home.

Two CHE students from the Department of Food Science and Nutrition developed and produced 40 bottles of “Lucal,” a calamansi/ginger concentrate to fortify medical frontliners at the PGH and the Lung Center of the Philippines.

Two groups, the CHE student organization Family Life and Child Development Circle and the UP

Child Development Center, developed materials (infographics, audiobook) and other family activities to help young children cope with a community quarantine.

The College of Education conducted similar initiatives, creating short videos and publishing “Beat COVID-19” infographics in various languages on their official Facebook page.

The College of Human Kinetics allowed the use of its gyms, classrooms and facilities as venues for COVID-19-related activities while several members of the UP Fighting Maroons posted materials like fitness video tutorials.

Similar initiatives were done by the School of Labor and Industrial Relations and the UP National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (NISMED), that allowed the frontliners working on campus to stay in their dormitories.

College of Arts and Letters (CAL) student organization UPD Le Club Français collected donations in exchange for French language learning materials.

The Business Administration Council created a database that tracks the number of donation drives being conducted by the various student organizations in UPD.

The Office of the Chancellor through the UP Diliman Information Office launched #KapitDiliman, a one-stop information portal where UPD constituents can look through for UPD’s latest policies and norms related to COVID-19. It would eventually be rebranded #TatagUP on May 1 with the easing of quarantine restrictions over Metro Manila.