

TIPS FOR REPORTING ON: A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS

SCENARIOS

- **The data presented by UNICEF and WHO is compelling and convincing, BUT – Schools are still closed.**



How do you handle the story?

- **Check you have the right sources to find out why?** Policy makers and Government response teams.

FOLLOW-Ups: Check you know the procedures and data monitoring in place that will impact on the decision.

- **There are reports of children or teachers or learners falling ill not long after School X is opened.**



How do you handle the story?

- Check you have the right sources to find out how the school will act? Head teacher or school governing body.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY and COMMUNICATION:** Check if parents and teachers know what the next steps will be and how they will be communicated. What is the school's learning plan – online a possibility?

LISTEN and be LOCAL

.... **But keep a watch on the national, regional and global picture.**



- * List all the schools and their contact details on your watch
- * Check in with them regularly to hear how it is going? Do they have a concern or success story worth telling?
- * Is there a coherent policy and policy-making procedure in town, city, district, etc.
- * What are parents saying? And teachers? How are learners faring?
- * Nurture contacts in this field. They are gold.

LESSONS FROM SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM



News is often about what is wrong in society. Solutions Journalism encourages journalists to cover what's missing in today's news: how people are responding to problems.

See <https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/>

- Highlight best practice and safety protocols
WHAT ARE THEY? **SPACE, MASK, FACE**
 - **SPACE:** Physical distance
 - **MASK:** wear it consistently and correctly
 - **FACE:** Don't touch your face. And since we don't realize how often we touch our faces, wash or sanitize your hands.
- Showcase schools which came up with a solution

WHAT ABOUT ADULTS IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM?



- * The data shows this is the area of concern in terms of transmission and impacts
- * Be a watchdog of safe spaces for adults.

KEEP A WATCH ON THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PICTURE, for comparisons and finding good practice



Sources: UNICEF, WHO and others provided

* Nurture other relevant contacts and credible commentators, both global and local, e.g. on **Twitter** and in your **town**.