**What did you do?**

We have analysed the directives made by the Government of Qatar through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) to all schools nationwide in preparation for the re-opening of schools in September as a response to prevent a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Who are you?**

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**What was the problem?**

To analyse if the government’s suggestions and strategies for the re-opening of schools for the academic year 2020/21 with a structured level of phased re-opening could potentially prevent a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**What was the solution?**

E-learning will play a significant role in this academic year. The teaching staff should adhere to all the mandatory infection prevention measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19 during re-opening of schools, and should provide a COVID-19 PCR-Negative-Certificate prior to starting a phased opening of school as follows:

1*st* Phase (1–3 September): One-third of pupils are expected to attend school in all grades during the initial phase.

2*nd* Phase: Blended Learning Model for 2 weeks (6–17 September). Pupils are split into two groups and will attend school in-turns over this period, with a 50% expected attendance. The second group will continue with E-learning, while the first group attends school prior to switching over.

3*rd* Phase: 100% attendance expected from 20 September onwards, wherein all pupils are expected to attend school with strict, controlled precautionary measures in place.
A school nurse should always be present on the premises and dedicated isolation rooms are to be allocated for symptomatic pupils/teachers if required.

Students and whose parents who have chronic medical ailments can be exempted from attending school in person, if they provide a medical certificate stating the same.

Qatar has succeeded to keep this pandemic under control with minimum fatality in spite of the most number of COVID-19 cases per million population in the world, and is now aiming to prevent a second wave of this pandemic with a well-planned initiative being implemented during the opening of schools and the nationwide lockdown in an organised manner.

Where can we find out more?

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