



## TAGUIG SCHOOLS READY FOR PILOT FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES

The City of Taguig supports the position that all schools who have been capacitated to properly and safely conduct face-to-face classroom sessions should be allowed to resume operations.

Now that the country is already piloting face-to-face classes in the basic education level, and preparing for the possible resumption of classes in the tertiary level, the City encourages our public and private school administrators to adapt the implementation of the infection control and mitigation strategies, as recommended in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine published in 5 February 2021, entitled *“Healthier schools during the COVID-19 pandemic: ventilation, testing and vaccination”*<sup>1</sup>, which are:

- 1. Classrooms and facilities to be used must have proper ventilation and air filtration.** The virus is transmitted via droplets, and evidence shows that properly ventilated rooms greatly increases the time for droplets to naturally fall to the ground and reduces the chance of transmission to the occupants of the room. The use of plastic barriers is discouraged as it affects ventilation and retains the respiratory particles in one place.
- 2. Teachers and school staff must be fully vaccinated.** Vaccination offers the best protection against the virus. In order to protect the students, especially the minors, everyone eligible to be vaccinated within the school premises must be prioritized. The City of Taguig is ready and willing to accommodate all school staff and teachers who would want to get vaccinated at the soonest possible time.
- 3. Teachers and school staff must undergo regular testing. Students with any COVID-related symptoms must be sent home immediately and tested accordingly.** Regular testing can help support a more effective and timely system of trace, test, isolate and support. Checking of symptoms prior to entry, including temperature tests at school entrances, could decrease the risk of transmission in the wider school community. Taguig teachers and school staff can schedule a free RT-PCR testing in over 35 sites in Taguig City through [traceportal.taguig.gov.ph](https://traceportal.taguig.gov.ph) and through the **COVID 19 Hotline** at **8789-3000** or **0966-419-4510**.

These recommendations must be combined with other infection control measures, such as the wearing of face masks, frequent handwashing, and regular sanitation of surfaces.

<sup>1</sup><https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0141076821992449>