



Terms of Reference for members of WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on schooling during COVID-19

A regional technical advisory group contributing to a living platform for evidence-based measures in schools during COVID-19 times.

The TAG will provide strategic and technical advice to WHO/EURO on matters relating to schooling in times of COVID-19 transmission and containment. It will advise WHO/EURO on issues around reopening and potential reclosure of schools within the context of the coronavirus response, and other measure and their prioritization for infection control, taking into consideration the latest available evidence and early experience of infection prevention measures being taken.

The TAG will advise WHO/EURO, specifically on the following:

1. Epidemiology of school transmission, its modelling to develop scenarios to guide when school closure, complete or partial, is useful or not in relation to community transmission, based on available data, and highlight the data gaps that need to be addressed.
2. Interpretation of research findings from the emerging evidence on educational institutions and COVID-19 to inform policy decisions in terms of education, social, development and health outcomes for children and staff.
3. Identify lessons learned and key issues that are emerging from countries' early experience of school reopening, to underpin WHO advice to Member States in their steer on national strategies and policies on school-based interventions for infection control and monitoring of these processes.
4. Review of evidence from global efforts and reviews, to advise on their applicability to the European Region

The technical areas of expertise of proposed TAG members include school health policy, school health services, adolescent health research, epidemiology, social sciences along with significant experience in programme design and management, service delivery, and research, development, and innovation, ethicist and young people themselves.

In the exercise of their advisory function, members of TAG shall serve in their personal capacity, as international experts advising WHO e; and in that capacity they shall provide WHO with the best possible advice. Members of TAG have a responsibility to provide WHO with high quality, well considered advice and recommendations on matters described in these Terms of Reference. In keeping with TAG's mandate to provide strategic and technical advice, members will be committed to the development and improvement of public health policies.

Members of the TAG will be involved in expert meetings leading to High Level meetings.

Each proposed member will be required to complete a WHO declaration of interest (DOI) form, and his/her appointment will be subject to the WHO Secretariat having evaluated the completed declaration of conflict of interest form, and determining that his/her participation would not give rise to a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.

Members must respect the impartiality and independence required of WHO. In performing their work, they may not seek or accept instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the Organization. They must be free of any real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.

TAG members will not be remunerated for their participation in TAG.