



## HOW IS COVID-19 AFFECTING MY SPONSORED CHILD?

Due to lockdowns and school closures across the world, many sponsors are wondering what is happening in their sponsored child's community.

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**IN SIERRA LEONE**, each child sponsorship partner community received handwashing stations, soap, and prevention education information. While schools are currently closed, WHI staff continue to monitor the safety and wellbeing of students for additional needs. WHI is actively involved in the COVID-19 surveillance and response with the Ministry of Health across the Bombali District. Rehabilitating and drilling new wells continue to be important, lifesaving work during inter-district lockdowns. Enable the Children continues to support special needs families through distributing specialized equipment, educating and monitoring families, distributing food support, and hands-off therapy instruction with parents when possible in clinics. Announcements have not yet been made about the plans for reopening schools in September.

**IN LIBERIA**, latrines and additional classrooms have been constructed to alleviate overcrowding at one partner school. The PTA contributed supplies and labor multiplying the plans for one classroom to make two! These improvements and more will be awaiting students when schools safely reopen! WHI has also been rehabilitating wells to improve critical access to water and distributing handwashing stations to support prevention efforts.

**IN THE PHILIPPINES**, schools were scheduled to be on a break shortly after COVID-19 closures. They currently plan to reopen (pending further national guidance) in August. Teachers visited students outside their homes to share prevention information with coloring books, celebrate graduates, monitor children, and distribute vitamins. In one partner community, a collapsed footbridge is being rebuilt eliminating the risk of children and their families crossing deep waters. WHI remains focused on the importance of continued protection work utilizing staff's experience with trafficking survivors to develop COVID-19 prevention education materials for children and a video training series, Guidelines for Homes for Children and Residential Shelters. <https://give.worldhope.ca/covid-19-mini-training-video-series>

**IN ZAMBIA**, grades 7,9, and 12 resumed classes on June 1<sup>st</sup> since they are important national exam years. The school year runs January to December with three breaks. The remaining grades are awaiting announcements on when they can return.

**IN HAITI**, schools remain closed and many children in densely populated communities traveled to stay with relatives in more rural areas. School directors continue to monitor the children's wellbeing and needs across their communities. Guidance for the next school year has not yet been given.

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While some sponsored children's families have been quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19, no positive cases or related deaths affecting sponsored children have been reported. Challenges with food supplies, violence, and fear remain in many communities. Please continue to pray for the safety of WHI staff, school staff, and sponsored children and their families. Your continued financial support allows us to meet needs as they arise for families, provide important sanitation supplies, and prepare for how to best support educational access as decisions are made in each country. For the most up to date information, follow WHI online or visit the COVID-19 FAQ.

<https://worldhope.ca/project/covid-19/>

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