

WEBINAR **SERIES**



**Promoting
health throughout
the life-course
during the
COVID-19
pandemic**

**WEBINAR-3:
IMPACT OF PANDEMIC AND
LOCKDOWN ON ADOLESCENT
HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**School reopening plans and
experience in Sri Lanka**



**Dr Ayesha Lokubalasooriya
Consultant Community Physician
Family Health Bureau
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka**

School Health Programme



Ministry of Health

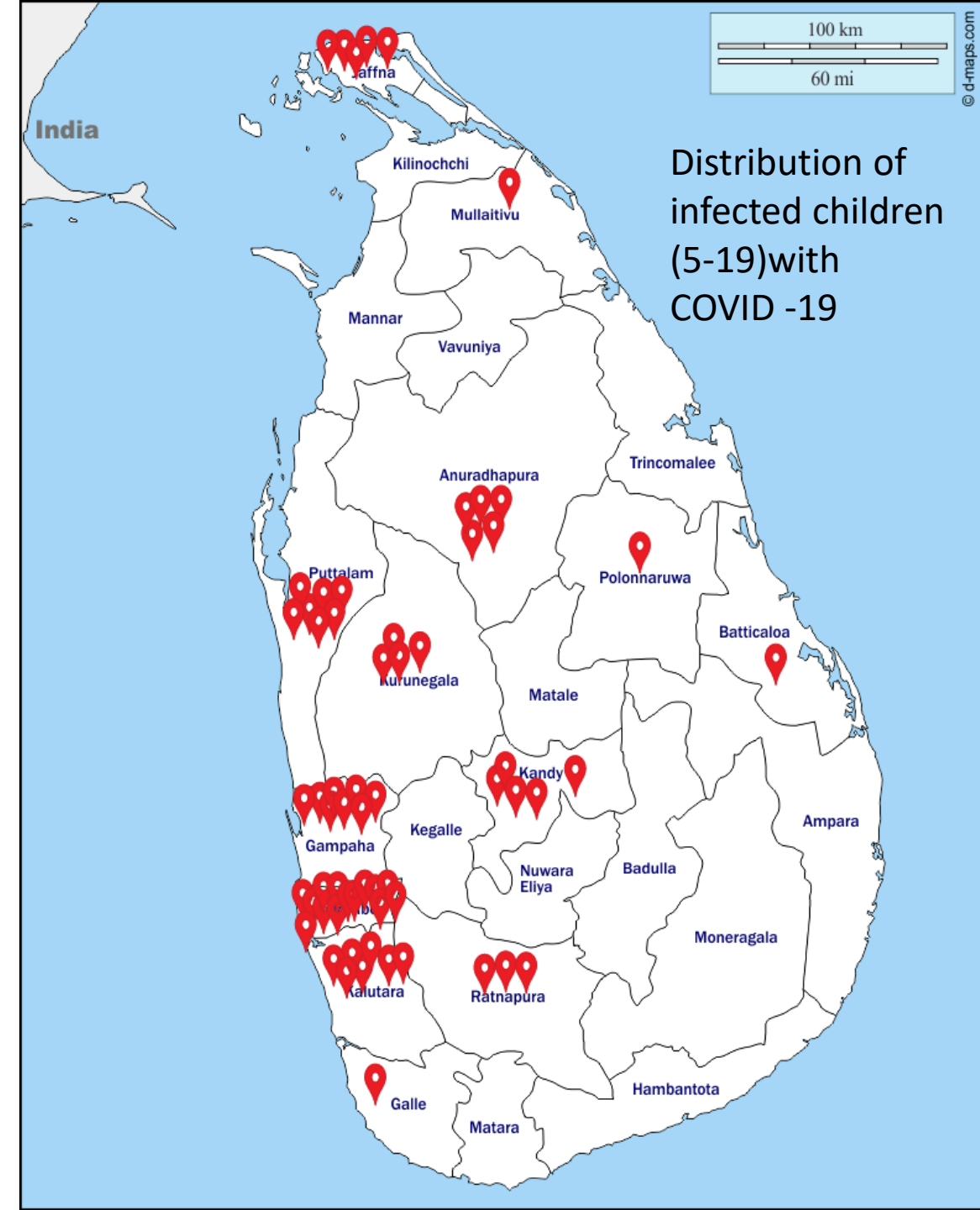


Ministry of Education

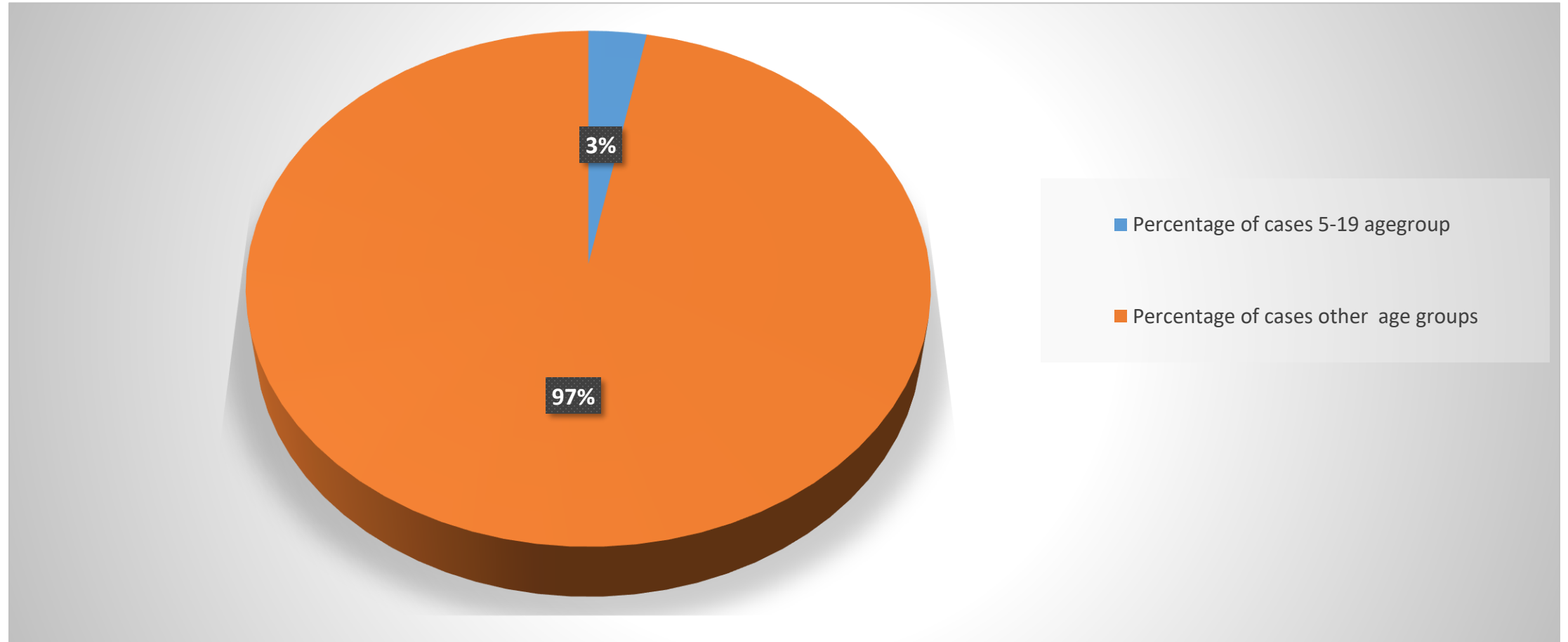
Since 1918

Present situation

Confirmed cases (Total)	3071
Under medical care	180
Recovered	2879
Deaths	12
Infected children 5-19 age category	95



Proportion of children (school going age) among COVID -19 cases





Closure of all the schools island wide

12th March



Reopening of schools grade 5['] grade 11 and A/L Section

06th July



Reopening of schools in a phased manner

10th August



11th March 2020

Appearance of the 1st local case of COVID -19

17th March

Total Lock down of the country

21st April

Preparedness for reopening

13th July - 27th July

Re-closure of schools due to appearance of new cluster of cases in rehabilitation centre

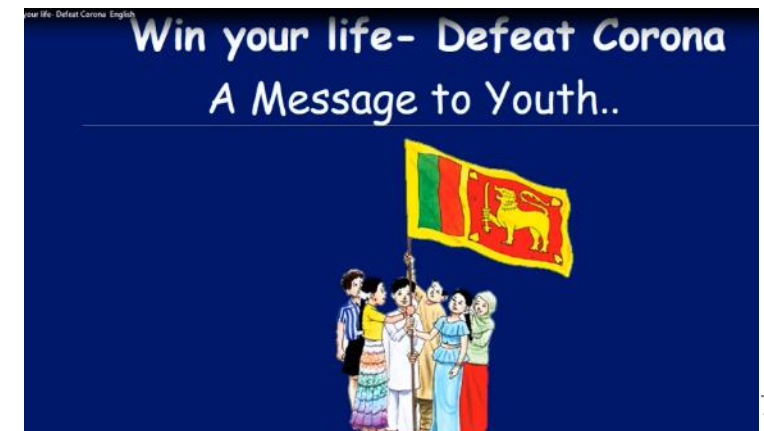
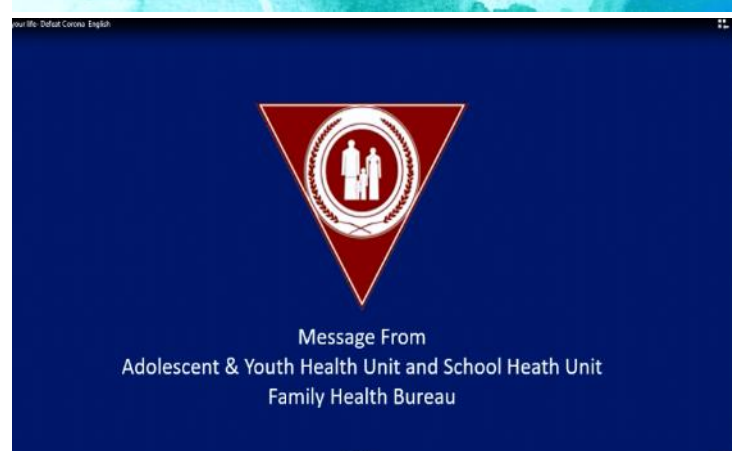


Challenges faced during lock-down period of COVID-19



Developed videos and disseminated via mass media and social media during locked down period in all 3 languages

- Messages on
- parenting during COVID
 - Over come the challenges during COVID
 - Availability of services for adolescents
 - How to overcome the loneliness
 - Importance of sleep



Preparedness for re-opening

- ❖ Develop SOP s (3 languages) on prevention and control the infection within school premises

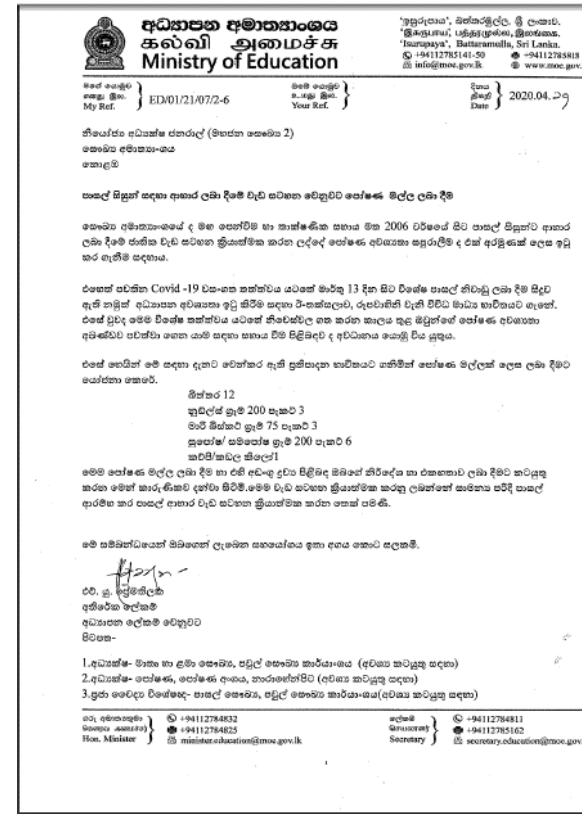
School re-opening guide
Ministry of Health



Comprehensive guide
Ministry of Education



- Guideline for transport of school children and staff
- Guiding and monitoring the of mid day meal programme distributed as dry rations to the needy children

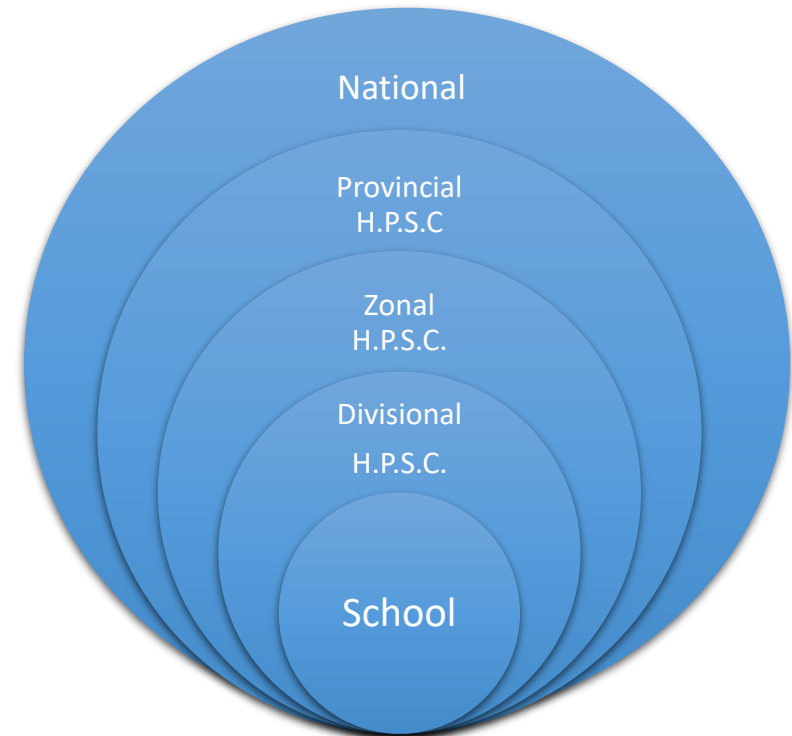


- ❖ Series of media campaigns and short video clips developed .
 - on good health practices to be adopted
 - with the support of INGOs and NGOs



Implementation of the guidelines

- Health promoting school committees (HPSC) at provincial, zonal & divisional level were given the task of implementation of re-opening of schools based on the national guidelines
- Awareness programmes for school principals by District and Divisional Health Staff (Covid-19, Dengue)



Main infection prevention and control measures addressed at school

- Adoption of physical distancing -
 - traveling to school ,
 - teaching and learning process
- Facilitate hand washing
- Maintain the respiratory etiquette
- Maintain the cleanliness of the places where risk of contamination with respiratory droplets and body fluids

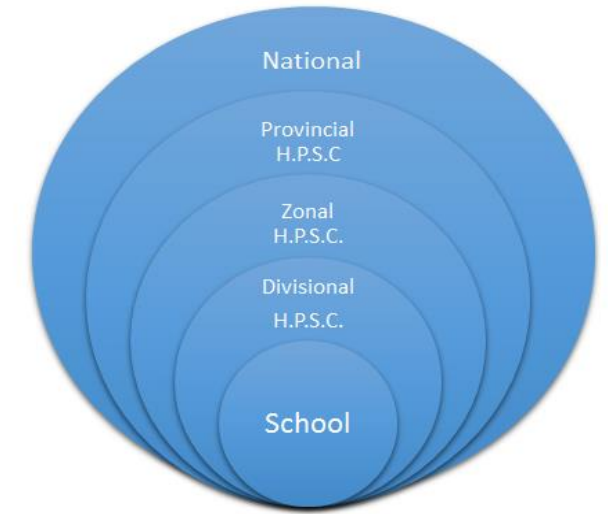


Resources for development of preventive and control activities in school reopening



Monitoring of the School reopening process

- Health promoting school committees at provincial, zonal level were given the task of monitoring the activities related to reopening of schools by the guidelines
 - Adequacy of infra structure facilities to maintain basic IPC measures of each school assessed by Medical Officer/PHI using the check list prior to re-opening



CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND STAFF		Check
1.	Before school opens, verify the availability of the below	
a)	Running water and soap are available for hand washing for students, staff and other staff (security, etc)- at least 1 tap should be available for 50 students	
b)	Availability of age appropriate washing stations	
c)	Adequate number of lined bins (Ideally pedal operated lined bins) with a lid should be available at least one per class to put used tissues	
d)	Posters / notices have been put up to aware the students / staff on respiratory etiquette, hand washing and physical distancing	
e)	Preparedness plan available on what to do if a student/ staff becomes ill during school hours	
f)	Separate isolation room (preferably with an attached bathroom) is identified to temporarily isolate the ill student/ staff till the transport/ ambulance is available	
g)	Adequate stock of masks are available to be used in a case of emergency	
h)	Adequate masks, gloves are available for cleaning staff	
i)	Adequate amount of disinfectants / bleach is available for disinfecting toilets/classrooms/ frequently used places and surfaces	
2.	Promote and demonstrate regular hand washing and positive hygiene behaviors and monitor their uptake	
a)	Availability of clean and separate toilets for girls and boys	
b)	Availability of soap and safe water at age-appropriate hand washing stations	
c)	Frequent and thorough washing	
3.	Clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and especially water and sanitation facilities at least twice a day,	
a)	particularly surfaces that are touched by many people (railings, lunch tables, sports equipment, door and window handles, toys, teaching and learning aids etc.) minimally twice a day	
b)	Use sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% (equivalent 5000ppm) for disinfecting surfaces & 70% ethyl alcohol for disinfection of small items	
c)	Availability of appropriate equipment for cleaning staff	
4.	Increase air flow and ventilation where climate allows (open windows, switch on a fan to blow the wind in one direction.	
5.	Post signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices and physical distancing	
6.	Ensure trash is removed daily and disposed of safely	
7.	Minimize individual communication and use public speaking systems / written notices to convey essential messages	



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School opening in phased manner

STEP ONE:

29 th June – Schools opened for teachers and other staff **only** for preparedness

06 th July – Schools opened for children giving priority to students expecting to sit for GCE O/L and GCE A/L and year 5 scholarship.

STEP TWO: 10th August 2020

Year 1and 6 - Monday only

Year 2and 7 - Tuesday only

Year 3and 8 - Wednesday only

Year 4and 9 - Thursday and Friday

Year 5 - Every day

Year 10,11,12,13 Everyday **7.30am-3.30pm**

7.30am-1.30pm

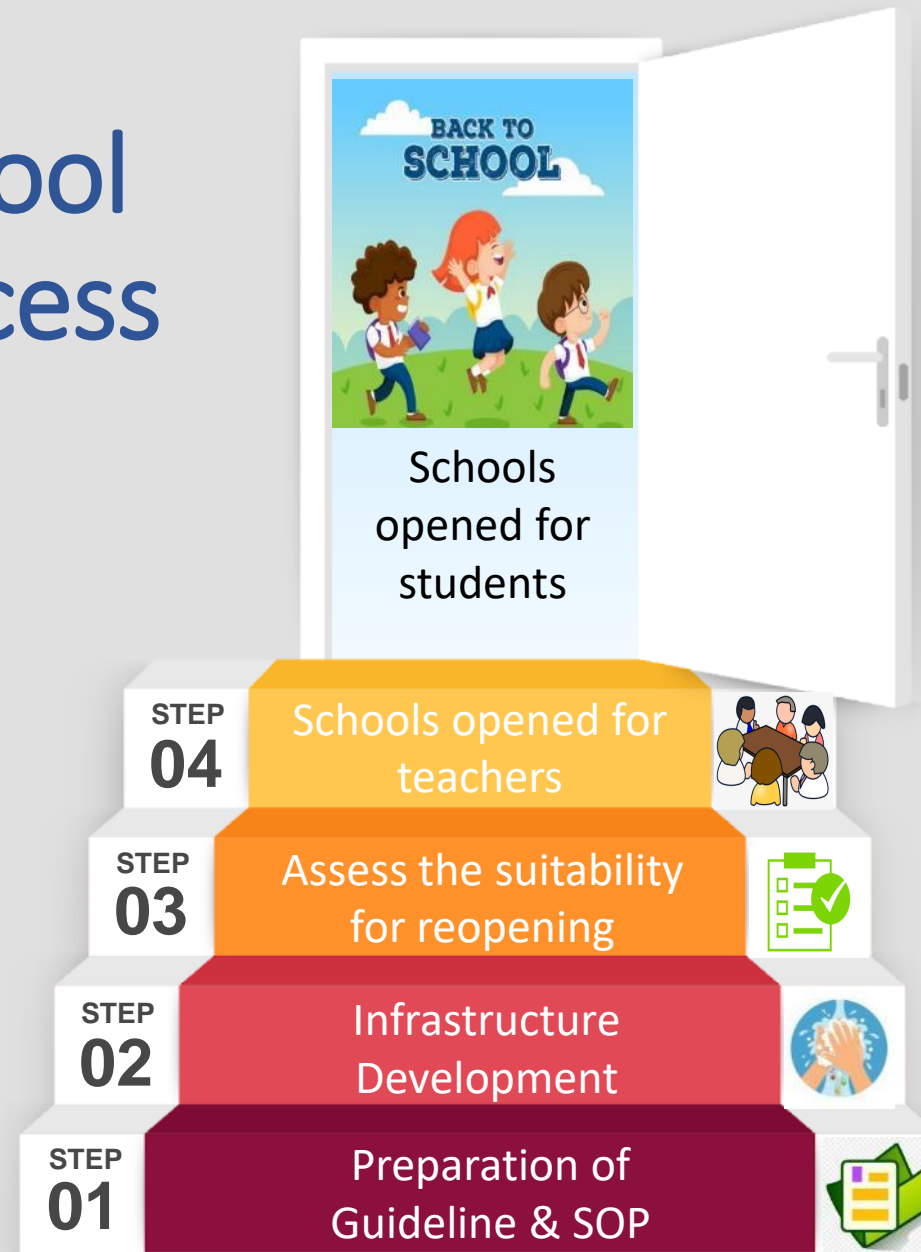
YET, THERE WERE MANY CHALLENGES



Challenges after reopening of school

- Adopting to the IPC practices of new normal phase of Covid-19
- Difficulty in scheduling the main Gov. examinations
- Difficulties in attending group activities
 - Physical activities
 - Subject related activities
 - Laboratory practicals
 - Extra curricular activities
- Canteens are not opened in schools yet
- Different school closing times for different grades
- More children found to be overweight and underweight as well

Outline of school reopening process



Factors contributed for success

- Policy decisions taken at a committee chaired by HE the president.
- Preventive measures carried out under Quarantine act.
- Presence of already established system of health promoting school programme
- Good communication & collaboration between Ministry of Education & Ministry of Health
- Good public health system supported by intelligence services, Tri-forces and Police.
- All the available resources diverted towards control and preventive measures of COVID infection
- Government and well wishers support in provision of financial and other support to needy families.
- Continuation of academic activities as much as possible.

Things that should not have been done

- Lack of consistency in health messages delivered by different agencies
- Violation of IPC measures in few occasions

Way forward.....

- Schools have opened for all the secondary school students (grade 6-13)successfully from today
- And we hope this is a great achievement of Sri Lanka following successful control of COVID Pandemic situation





THANK YOU !