



COVID-19, Update #2– A Message from CIRA

Cairo, April 09, 2020

The global COVID-19 pandemic had put more than 1/3 of the world's population in some form of lockdown, disrupting daily life and stress-testing longstanding paradigms. We praise essential front-line workers risking their lives and those of their families for the greater good, and those non-essential workers who have stayed home in a heartening show of global solidarity. Families have shown their resilience, adaptability, and mettle in dealing with the changes COVID-19 has thrust upon them, and CIRA is proud to have played a role in their readiness to face those challenges. While the world continues to grapple with the consequences of COVID-19; we are committed to keeping our stakeholders abreast of our response to the pandemic in key areas including Educational Service Continuity, HSE, Transportation and Construction Services, and Human Resources, and Financial Reporting practices.

Continuity of the Educational Process

- On March 20, The Ministry of Education (MOE) announced replacing summative assessments for Grades 3 - Grade 9 (Primary and Preparatory Stages) with project-based assessments. Students are required to submit research projects on topics that will be announced on April 09, 2020, to be completed individually or in groups of up to 5 students. Since the announcement, our teachers have been working on enhancing the students' research skills as well as providing guidance on their research journey.
- On March 26, The MOE announced that the curriculum cut-off date would coincide with the date of school closure, and that research projects will only include materials taught until March 15th. Our teachers have since switched their primary focus from completing the syllabus to the revision of the content covered since the beginning of the Second Term.
- On April 05, 2020 Grade 10 students across Egypt sat through online trial assessments in the comfort of their own home. Students had the choice of accessing the assessments through the government-issued tablets, or any networked device. The last assessment is scheduled on April 22, and so far all of CIRA's students enrolled in the National Systems have had a smooth experience. The trial assessments are held in preparation for the online end-of-year exams to be held in May.

- On April 08, the Prime Minister announced an extension to school and university shutdown through April 23, 2020.
- In the short period since the education system shutdown; adoption and engagement metrics of CIRA's distance education systems are at 82% across CIRA's K-12 and higher education communities.
- Building on previously-conducted professional development programs, CIRA's K-12 faculty and core staff (1500+) attend daily sessions to assure they are kept up-to-date with the latest distance learning tools and online instructional methods. The training is hosted virtually to ensure strict physical distancing guidelines.
- CIRA has set up support communication channels that are now active 24/7 for all teachers to get the technical support needed to deliver classes and best utilize the features of the virtual solutions.
- CIRA has been using its online channels to deliver timely updates to parents on the latest MOE decisions, as well as sharing vital information on staying safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As part of its CSR, CIRA has made some of its online video channels and relevant content available to parents and students enrolled in schools outside of CIRA's network. The online content is primarily focused on Highschool students (Secondary Stage), which will be sitting for summative exams, whether virtually or physically.
- A detailed report is currently being prepared on CIRA's swift digital transformation across the K-12 and higher education sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CIRA has revisited its K12 admission process and is currently transforming its online admissions portal to encompass the full journey from lead generation to tuition payment.

CIRA has limited any non-essential on-campus meetings at BUC and has limited any meetings that involve more than 2 persons. For essential on-campus meetings, the university is enforcing strict PPE, hygiene, and physical distancing guidelines. BUC has communicated these guidelines to the essential Committee for the Commencement of Educational Services members expected on BUC campus towards the end of April. The Committee is meeting to sign off on BUC's new faculties.

Health and Safety

- All CIRA schools and university campuses have undergone a thorough sanitization process, and regular checks to assure health and safety standards are met.
- CIRA provided the needed support for teachers to equip them to work from home and have the devices/connectivity required to deliver their classes from home.

Construction Services and Transportation Services

· Badr University in Cairo (BUC) Existing Campus:

o CIRA is on track to deliver six new faculties at BUC in the upcoming Academic Year 2020/2021. Construction work on the six new faculty buildings has been completed as of Q2 '19/'20:

o Remainder of construction work consists of minor finishing and fittings for the six new faculties. Construction workers to adhere to strict guidelines for hygiene, physical distancing, and proper use of PPE at all times during work. Despite working on a reduced schedule of to manage worker health and safety, construction is expected to be completed in time for a scheduled committee visit for the commencement of educational services at the end of April 2020. This committee approval is a regulatory requirement to start accepting students into the six new faculties for the Academic Year 20/21.

· Regent British School in Mansoura:

o In accordance with the Prime Minister's address allowing for the resumption of construction works, CIRA is now operating Regent's construction site at a 60% capacity following all national and internal guidelines for adequate PPE, safe physical distancing, and hygiene.

In order to reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19

- CIRA has grounded transport vehicles (that would otherwise have to travel longer distances between governorates) used by its construction arm for workers to promote safe physical distancing and limit spread among construction workers
- CIRA has rented apartments for construction workers on site to reduce travel times and distances to reduce the COVID-19 network spread effect by eliminating risk of workers traveling back and forth during these times given the government-imposed curfew and spread of disease.

Human Resource Response

· After completing the online migration and activating the distance leaning protocol, CIRA HQ employees are now following an "essential employees only" attendance on a rotational 50% basis.

· CIRA has implemented a strict physical distancing policy for any scheduled in-person meetings that required the attendance of more than 2 people. The majority of the meetings are now held using videoconferencing.

· CIRA management is ensuring regular communication with CIRA's Directors on all matters related to the digital transformation to alleviate any concerns and resolve any issues that may arise from implementing the online system.

· CIRA has committed to paying full-time and part-time staff in full. All staff members benefitting from internal installment programs for their children's tuition fees (20% of staff) have been temporarily relieved from contractual deductions in the month of April.

Financial Reporting

· Despite COVID-19 generated backlog at both CIRA and with our auditors, CIRA's finance team is working closely to ensure deadlines are met for H1 reporting

Mohamed El Kalla, Chief Executive Officer