

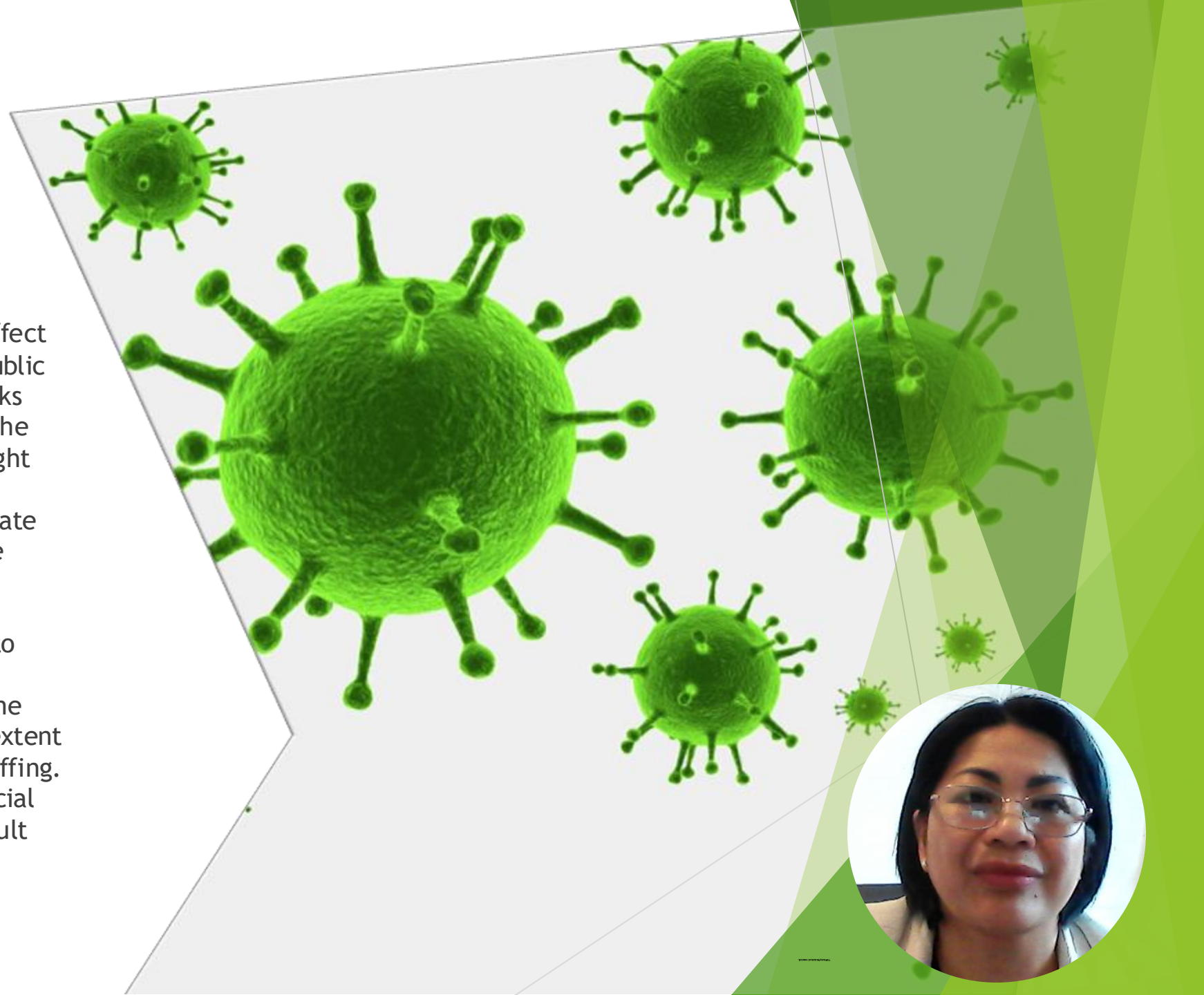
What are the challenges support staff in school face since Covid-19?

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Introduction

- The society have continued to feel the effect of COVID-19 until 2022. People in both public and private sector had been wearing masks and used sanitizers that slowly eased as the years go by. By the time, the public thought the virus is gone, cases of the Omicron variant began to arise from the unfortunate beginning of 2023 that extended until the summer.
- This has again caused a major disruption to teaching, learning and staffing due to absenteeism on either side. Moreover, some schools have had to suspend class to the extent of sending learners' home due to understaffing. The situation has affected learners in special schools and PRUs the most as it was difficult for them to cope with different support workers all the time.



Health and safety changes

- Increased Precautions- Support staff were expected to supervise and make sure government's guidelines are followed.
- Mental health impact- The support worker had become the immediate contact to pupils dealing with the ever-changing rules and guidance from the government.
- Safety measures- such as sanitizers in school corridors, different break times for learners and limited students' cluster.



Prevention



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Avoid

touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects



General unprecedented challenges during the pandemic



Physical distancing- a significant measure to limit the spread of infection but at the same time the biggest challenge as it led somehow to isolation of many.



Work from home- while some people consider it pleasant, many found it as a challenge to work at home when there are children to look after simultaneously.



E-learning- It can be seen as asset and challenge as the shift in dynamic varies.



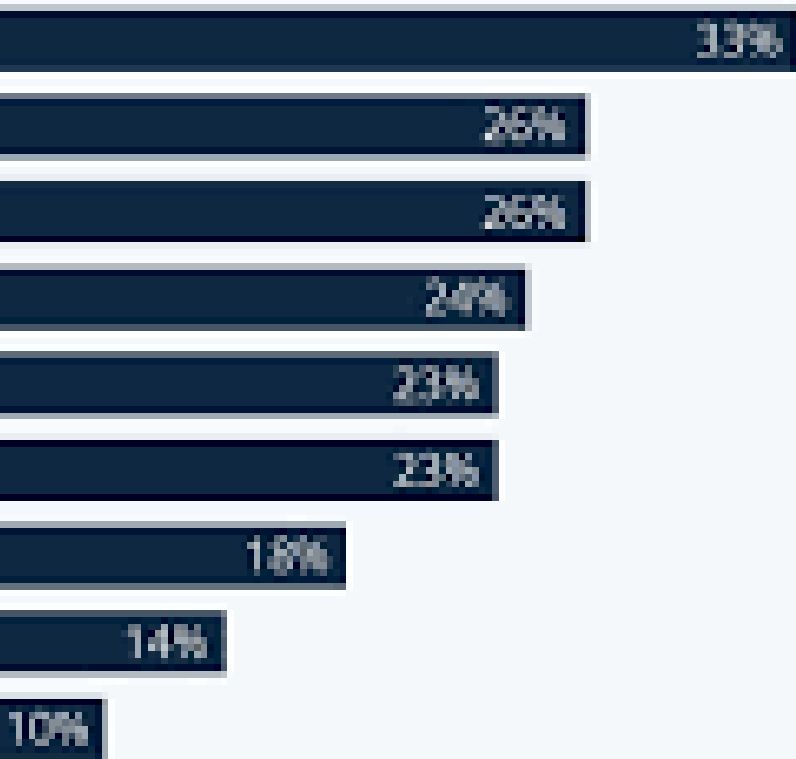
Boundaries- It is nice to spend more time with the family, but patience can be put to test.



Idleness- being home more than usual can lead to bad habits as it become a challenge how to pass the time in a productive ways.

Widespread Impact on health

Experienced stress, anxiety or sadness while working alone during the pandemic



Identified challenges to support staff since Covid-19

- ▶ Stress and workload increased
- ▶ Work life balance
- ▶ Face to face interaction
- ▶ Physical and mental health



Stress and work overload

- These factors could include burnout, unclear expectations, long working hours and high responsibility and low motivation or lack of appreciation.



Work-life balance is about allocating time for work and personal life, to enhance overall well-being, health and happiness.



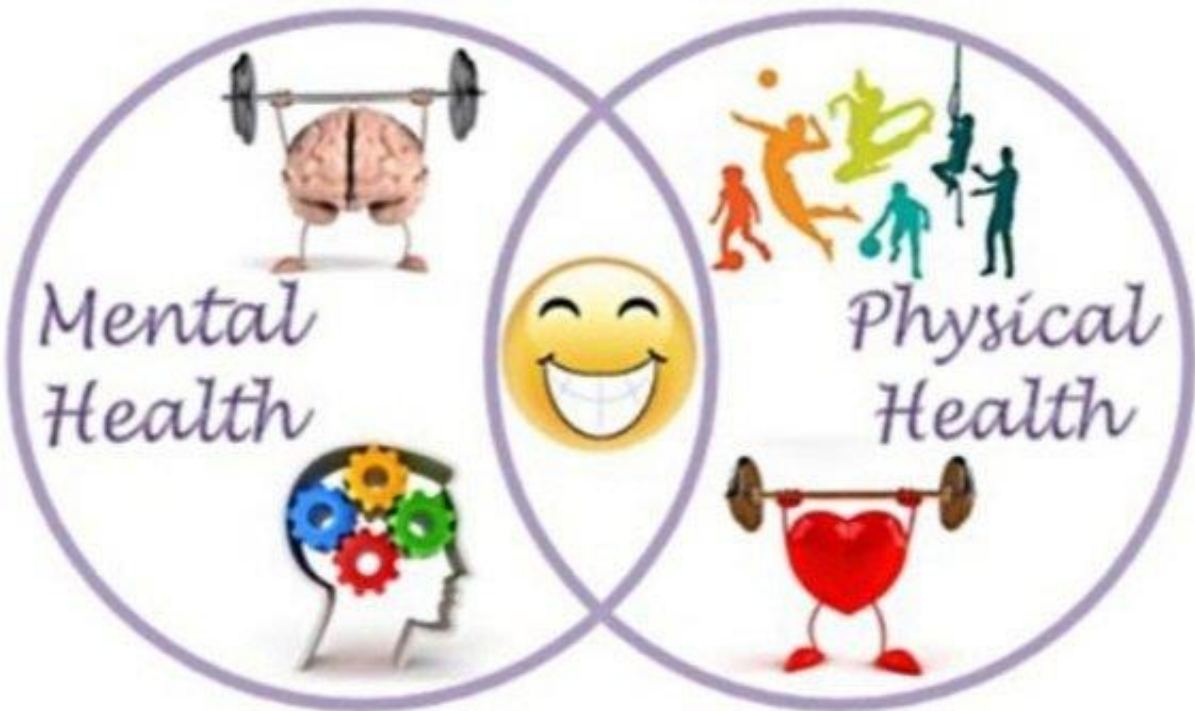
Face to face interaction



- Communication fosters stronger connection and deeper understanding between individuals.



Physical and Mental health



- Physical and mental health involve maintaining overall well-being and balance through self-care and physical wellness.



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**Challenges are what make life
interesting. Overcoming them is what
makes life meaningful.**

~ Joshua Marine

 trvst



Road to recovery



Online family events-
Better attendance in
online tool to
connect.



Online office hours-
Online "dropping in"
for clarifications is
very helpful and is
well accepted by staff
and students.



Technology for
learning- students will
learn, experience and
explore to create a
better work and
allowing them to
make their own
decisions.



More equitable
assessments- Online
learning is an integral
part to increase
knowledge.



Online affinity spaces-
It offers vulnerable
pupils a platform to
share thoughts rather
than in person.



The ability to change-
Being
complacent and able to
adjust and adapt
takes good practice,
communication and
resilience. Authorities
in school must value
their teachers and
support workers
being.



Dialogues-
communication can
bridge differences and
can make our
everyday life easier.



Conclusion



The Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the world of education, introducing complexities for every member of staff, especially support staff. The schools compromised to unfamiliar learning style, government guidance and towards unpredictable situations such as the official school closure on March 18, 2020. Support staff suddenly found themselves in a position to help maintain and assume normalcy.



To date, Schools have been running accordingly and LSAs and TAs are back to supporting students and teaching staff. Whether the administrations values their contributions or not, would hopefully reflect on their pay slip.



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