What Does the "New Normal" Look Like in Healthcare, Education, and Workplace settings?

Having been sheltering in place since mid-March, our local community is eager to return to some sense of normalcy. As we prepare for the time when some or all of the current restrictions will be lifted, we need to think about how the workplace, education, and healthcare will look in the future. Will people return to work in offices or continue to work virtual? Will schools return to traditional in-person learning or continue to rely on distance learning? Will people return to their regular healthcare appointments or continue to delay routine health care? What changes will we see when we return to some sense of normalcy? This is not only relevant to educators and health care providers, but also to people currently working in essential jobs who need to return to school (K-12 and higher education), or back to work.

As we prepare for the return to some sense of normalcy, we should be asking ourselves what is needed to ensure that the "new normal" is one in which all people are safe, healthy, and have the opportunity to have their needs met. This includes ensuring that essential workers have access to personal protective equipment and other resources they need to continue providing services to their communities, while also ensuring that those who are most vulnerable have the resources they need to stay healthy. It also includes ensuring that schools and workplaces have the resources they need to ensure the health and safety of their students and employees.

As we think about the "new normal," we need to consider not only what needs to be done to ensure that everyone is safe and healthy, but also what needs to be done to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the future. This includes ensuring that everyone has access to the education and health care they need to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed, and that they have the opportunity to participate in the economic and social development of their communities.

As we prepare for the return to some sense of normalcy, we need to think about how we can ensure that the "new normal" is one in which everyone is safe, healthy, and has the opportunity to participate. This will require a commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to the resources they need to stay healthy, and that they have the opportunity to participate in the economic and social development of their communities. It will also require a commitment to ensuring that everyone has the education and skills they need to succeed, and that they have the opportunity to participate in the future.