



SAVING THE ACADEMIC YEAR IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE CASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, GHANA.

Ms Addison-ansah, Berlinda

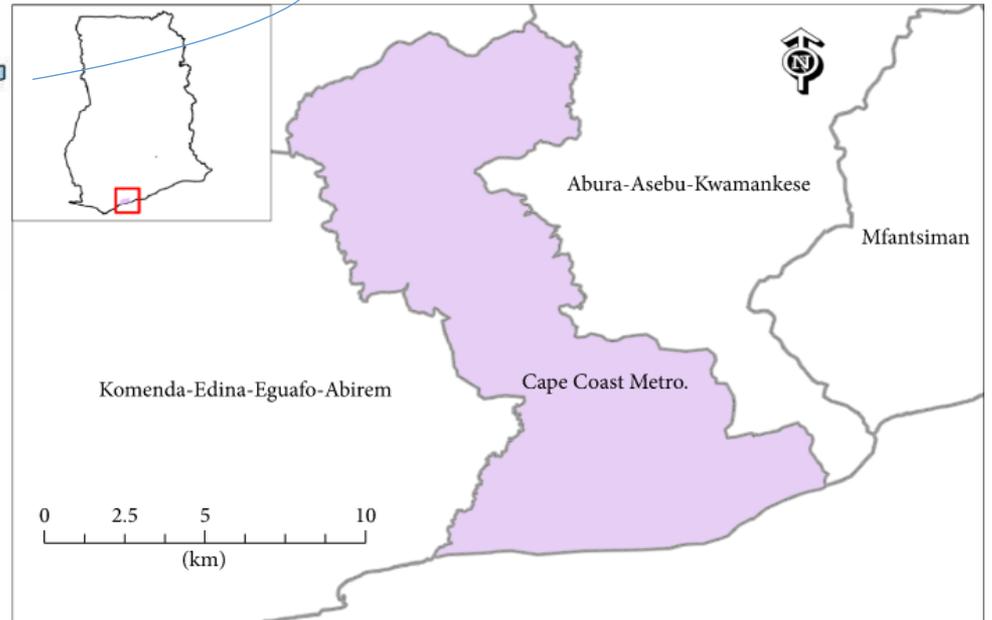
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HELTASA CONFERENCE 2020

Outline of Presentation

- Background
- COVID-19 in Ghana
- COVID-19 and the University of Cape Coast (UCC)
- The UCC Strategy
- COVID-19 Prevention Measures on Campus
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Background of COVID-19

- There are different types of coronaviruses and some cause diseases. The novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, has been identified as the cause of the worldwide pandemic of respiratory illness, called COVID-19. COVID-19 was first discovered in December 2019 in Wuhan, a city in China.

Worldwide Recorded Cases	Recoveries	Deaths
62,363,527	44,028,943	1,456,687

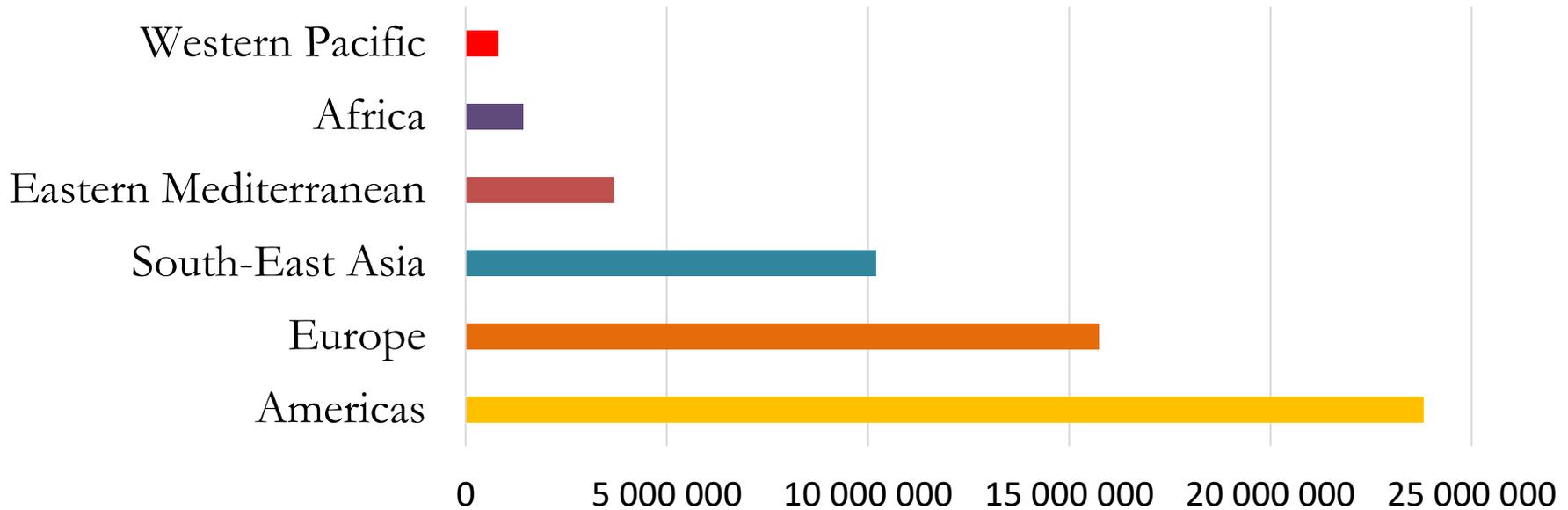
Source: World Health Organization



Background of COVID-19

- The distribution of cases worldwide according to continents is found below;

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



Source: World Health Organization



Ghana and Covid-19

On March 12 2020, Ghana recorded its first 2 cases of COVID-19.

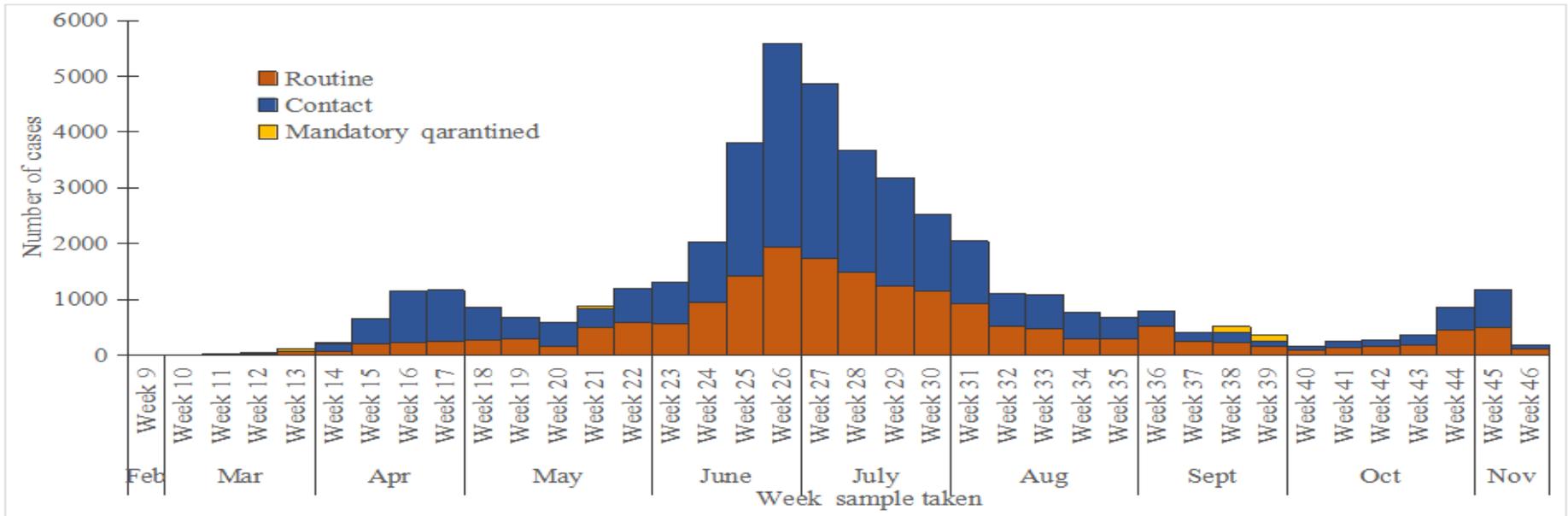


Figure 3: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in Ghana by week sample taken, March – November 2020

Recorded Cases	Recoveries	Deaths
51,667	50,547	323

Source: Ghana Health Service



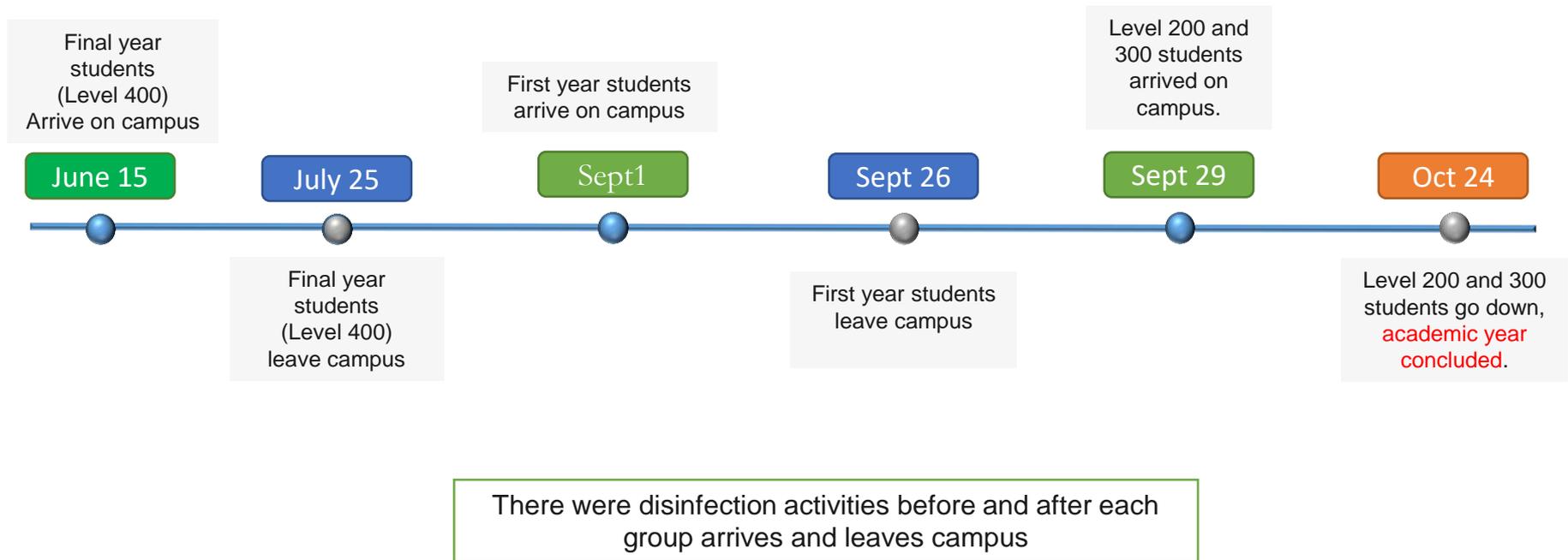
University Of Cape Coast and Covid-19

- Approximately 500,000 students from Higher Education Institutions had to go home.
- The university of Cape Coast was determined to save the academic year during the pandemic amid the poor internet connectivity, poor access to electricity, devices and conducive home environment.
- The University of Cape Coast issued a notice on 27th March, informing the university community of the use of the university's online platform, UCC Moodle, for all academic activities.



The UCC Strategy

- To ensure quality academic assessment, the University of Cape Coast devised an innovative year-group by year-group approach to completing the semester. After many weeks of teaching, the students were allowed to return to campus to spend one calendar month on campus to revise and write their end of semester exams.



The University Of Cape Coast and Covid-19

- The university's educational philosophy is rooted in learner-centred and experiential learning theories. Before the pandemic, the university has instituted programmes in which the majority of the academic staff were trained for e-learning.
- The University has also implemented blended learning programmes over two decades for its distance education students.
- Many telecommunication companies collaborated with the universities to provide data bundles for students to facilitate online learning.



Covid-19 Prevention On Campus



Zoomlion Ghana Ltd in collaboration with UCC embarked on the disinfection and fumigation exercise at UCC. Lecture theatres, halls of residences and other areas on campus were disinfected.

Source: ucc.edu.gh



The Office of the Dean of Students, in conjunction with the Directorate of University Health Services, organized an orientation on COVID-19 protocols for final year students when they returned to campus.



Covid-19 Prevention On Campus

- Lectures were expected to take place with half the population of the class to ensure social distancing was observed. The government provided students with hand sanitizers and three faces mask each. Students were required to wear their nose masks at all times and adhere to all COVID-19 protocols.
- Final examinations were taken with strict adherence to all school rules and COVID-19 protocols with no graduation ceremony held (<https://ucc.edu.gh/press-release/arrangements-re-opening-university-final-year-students>).



Conclusion

- The students and staff were satisfied with the blended approach introduced by the university to save the academic year. The new academic year has been scheduled to start in January 2021.
- In a country that has recorded 50,123 COVID-19 cases, none of them was recorded at the University of Cape Coast.
- Therefore, it can be concluded that the safety protocols put in place by the aforementioned university were successful in preventing community spread of COVID-19 on the university campus while saving the academic year and maintaining academic integrity.



Quality Assessment

- There are various concerns about the quality of remote assessment during the pandemic.
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- Should Africa be looking at the UCC model as a way of ensuring quality assessment while teaching continues remotely in these uncertain times?



Thank you

