Editorial

Little by little, Colombian universities are returning to their former face-to-face presence. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the mandatory confinement established by the national government, the country's educational entities had opted for a distance learning strategy supported by video conferencing connections and MOOC (massive open online courses) platforms over the Internet as an alternative while the country's health situation was being managed. In recent months, vaccination has been extended worldwide, which has controlled the spread of the virus, allowing many governments, including the Colombian government, to establish rules for a gradual return to physical learning spaces.

Even so, there are many doubts regarding this return. While many parents support this strategy, in certain cases pressured by their children alone at home and behavioral and conduct problems within their homes, many others remain concerned about the mortality of the virus, and the few guarantees offered by certain institutions, particularly public ones. In this sense, it is necessary to show the community that the sanitation and health of the population is a priority compared to other social rights and that there really are conditions for a return to the presence, not only within institutions but in all public spaces, particularly in transportation.

It is a great relief that this stage we are going through, caused by the virus, is beginning to have light at the end of the tunnel. There is talk of new normality in which surgical masks may resist disappearing given the advantages that have been learned from them, such as the significant reduction of respiratory diseases in general. Perhaps this new normality will give light to a more intelligent and prepared society, which will be able to face the new challenges of the future with greater wisdom.

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