

March 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues and Campus residents,

The Institute is not in a full 'lockdown' mode yet, several measures have been put in place to track any trace of infection at an early stage and to prevent the spread of the novel corona virus on campus. The task force set up to monitor the situation met on March 16, 2020 to take stock of the situation. The following issues from the updates and suggestions received from the members in that meeting.

UPDATES:

0. The sequence of events in the case of campus residents who may be carrying the infection (such as those returning from one of the affected countries, see WHO list at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports> <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200315-sitrep-55-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=33daa5cb_8>) is as follows:

0.1 if asymptomatic, they are quarantined (in the hostel for students, at home for staff and faculty).

0.2 If they show (or develop during the quarantine period) any symptoms such as cough, fever, breathlessness (which are characteristic of infection by this virus), they should report to the hospital immediately.

0.3 The hospital will isolate the patient and based on a preliminary assessment and (if needed) a discussion with the doctors at KHID (the testing centre for Mumbai at present) decide whether to send the patient to KHID for further tests.

1. So far, not a single case of infection has been detected on campus. Two cases were sent to KHID but were cleared there. The hospital and the hostels are keeping a close watch on the situation and will take immediate steps if even one case comes to light.

2. Most of the UG students have left the campus and also some of the PG students, so that the possibility of close contact between students even in the messes is not considered high; steps to see that the messes will not see large numbers at the same time will be taken if needed. PHO's office is ensuring that public places are being kept clean and disinfected at all times.

3. Dean(SA) has constituted a task force to monitor the hostel situation closely and is receiving regular updates. Quarantine facilities have been set up which appear adequate for now and the foreseeable future unless there is a drastic and unexpected increase in numbers.

4. All public/private events on campus of a kind that involves the congregation of large numbers (such as seminars/conferences, get-togethers, marriage receptions etc) have been either cancelled or postponed. If you have planned and booked a venue for this period (till March 31), please note that the bookings stands cancelled automatically.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

The following numbers are available for contacting 24X7 for reporting any suspected case and for seeking advice:

HOSPITAL: Extension 1110

SECURITY: 1100, 1122

STUDENT TASK FORCE: Gurpreet Singh (GS, H16): 9464208257; Akshay Nair (GS, H13): 8291585637; Radhik Rammohan (GSAA-PG Elect) 9712132512