

a/c

No. CRN/102020/15032020/KH-2
Education Department
Government of Gujarat
Dt. 15/03/2020

To,

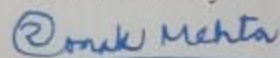
- (1) Vice Chancellor,
All Universities,
Gujarat State
- (2) All Central and State Higher Educational Institutes,
Gujarat State.

Subject:- Guidelines regarding the precautions to be taken against
Corona Virus

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, Government has issued directions vide Education Department's Notification No. PRC/112020/151/V-2, dtd.15/03/2020. In continuation with the same, all Universities, Colleges, Research Institutes, Educational Centres, etc in the State of Gujarat must remain closed till dt.31-03-2020. Guidelines regarding the precautions to be taken against Corona Virus have been prepared to be implemented by each Higher Educational Institute. The same is attached herewith for your ready reference. All Universities and Central and State Higher Educational Institutes in Gujarat are hereby directed to follow the Guidelines strictly at their end.

Yours Faithfully



(Ronak Mehta)

Deputy Secretary,
Education Department

Enclosure: As above

212

**Precautions to be undertaken by all higher education institutions in Gujarat
to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)**

Closure of all educational institutions

- Teaching activities shall remain closed in all universities, colleges, research institutes, educational centres, etc. upto 29-03-2020, or till further orders.

Examinations

- In case of courses where examinations are ongoing, Universities should complete the same within one week.
- The examinations that are yet to be started for the term, should be started only after 31-03-2020.
- Universities may consider holding online examinations or any other ways of evaluation not requiring gathering of students, during this period.
- For ongoing examinations, on campus till 18-03-2020, the following must be ensured:
 - Exam halls may be limited to a maximum of 15 students per classroom. 01 mt. Distance should be maintained between students on all sides.
 - Exam centers should ensure hygienic conditions, with strict compliance to the cleanliness recommendations as below
 - All students should be monitored for any medical symptoms in all exam centers before entry.
 - Students with a history of travel to COVID-19 affected destinations or those students who have been in contact with such persons should be closely monitored and should be allowed to stay in home-quarantine of at least 14 days (or act as per the advice of the treating doctor) after such travel or contact, and necessary provisions must be made to facilitate special examinations of such students. Separate arrangements should be made for such student.
 - Gatherings inside and outside exam centres should not take place and the use of gathering-places inside the campus such as reading rooms and canteens should be suspended

Mandatory Disclosure of Travel (or Contact with Persons of Travel History)

- All students, faculty members and staff members must avoid all non-essential domestic level and all international travel
- All students, faculty members and staff members must report any travel history in the past 28 days or contact with persons who have travelled to COVID-19 affected destinations in the past 28 days through an online disclosure process as to be established by the institution with immediate effect
- Suspected cases should be referred to Government Medical facilities for suitable treatment and such actions should be notified to the State Government via the Education Department.

Donk Mehta

Campus Cleanliness and Hygiene

- Cleanliness and disinfection efforts across all education institutions should be ramped up, with a focus on very repeated cleaning of frequently-touched surfaces such as door handles, lift buttons, doorknobs, handrails, taps, desk-tops, doors, etc. using only clinically-approved, hospital-grade disinfectants and cleaners.
- The institutions should ensure adequate availability of hand wash liquids, water supply at all places in the campus

Hostel and other on-campus residences

- All students should be encouraged to remain to their hometown for the said period.
- All prayer rooms, sports rooms, swimming pools should be closed.
- Recycled water should be used in most essential conditions.
- Administration of educational institutions must also take utmost care of cleanliness, hygiene, avoidance of mass gatherings, like TV rooms, student activities in hostels and ancillary facilities such as staff quarters, mess premises, etc. to avoid the spread of the virus

Remote Academic and Administrative Activity

- Universities and educational institutions must also evolve strategies and processes to effectively implement remote-work and work-for-home policies for all its employees to facilitate essential administrative and academic meetings and business to be conducted virtually/ circular agenda.
- Efforts must also be undertaken to devise strategies to deliver classes, lectures and courses virtually for students

Transportation:

- All mass transportation, by University/Students should be suspended.

Special Categories:

- Extra precautions and surveillance should be exercised in case of students who are pregnant/ Old Aged/ on immune suppressive agents/ diabetics/ or of altered immune status.

Donak Mehta ..

Information Dissemination and Education of Public

- All institutions must take necessary steps to spread relevant information to all students, faculty members and staff members regarding the precautionary measures to avoid COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus), primarily:
 - Everyone must avoid all non-essential domestic and international travel.
 - Any person with signs and symptoms i.e. fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, and should immediately consult a doctor and stay in home quarantine till advised otherwise by the treating doctor.
 - Simple public health measures of hand and respiratory hygiene must be thoroughly disseminated:
 - Hand hygiene: Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap & water (for at least 20 seconds) and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, even when hands are visibly clean.
 - Respiratory hygiene:
 - Everyone should cover their mouth with a tissue/handkerchief (or their sleeve if there are no tissues available) when they cough or sneeze and wash their hands afterward
 - Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth.
 - Everyone should throw away used tissues in a bin and wash their hands after contact with coughing sneezing
 - All persons should avoid touching frequently-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, switches, desktops, hand railings etc. and if they need to, they should wash their hands or be sanitized.
 - All persons should also avoid touching their nose, eyes, mouth and ears.
- Everyone must be educated to avoid & call-out the spread of misinformation, fake messages, forwarded messages, etc. and only follow the most genuine sources of information which include the World Health Organisation (www.who.int) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (www.mohfw.gov.in)
- Institutions must effectively employ the use of online modes of communications such as mass SMS, social media, emails, WhatsApp messages to various formal and non-formal faculty and student groups to make students and the education fraternity aware of such information, as well as institutions, must equip offline modes of communications including notices on notice boards, classroom announcements, etc. for the same

Gatherings and Events

- All events, meetings and programs involving more than 15 people or those involving close contact between participants must be postponed until atleast till April 15, 2020, and rescheduled only after reviewing the evolving situation.
- Places attracting larger crowds in campuses such as canteens, reading rooms, etc. must be closed down until the evolving situation is contained
- Use of Air conditioning in group situations should be avoided.

Ronak Mehta