ADMINISTRATION

Date: 1st May, 2021

Report on Covid-19 situation and its management in JNU campus

It is submitted that the JNU, is striving sincerely to provide all possible help – medically and socially – to all its residents since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country last year. In the current wave, JNU administration has ramped up its efforts to contain spread of the virus in the University campus. Towards that, JNU administration is providing all possible help and assistance to its students, staff, teachers and their families.

JNU has constituted a Covid-19 Task Force to look into various aspects of Covid-19 in the campus. To augment the functioning of COVID-19 Task Force which was set up in March 2020, the JNU administration has recently formed the COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) in the light of the second wave of COVID-19. Since its formation, JNU's CRT has been working round the clock in managing and planning responses to better deal with the COVID-19 cases in the campus.

The CRT works in collaboration with the University Administration, the Health Centre and University's Security Department to reach out to the University community to help the needy. Faculty, students, and the University's NSS and NCC volunteers have been working hard to fulfill the mandate of the CRT.

The following are specific initiatives undertaken by JNU's CRT to efficiently deal with the current wave of COVID-19 pandemic:

1. CRT has been organizing at regular intervals, **COVID-19 testing camps** for all residents in the University, and **vaccination camps** for the age group of 45 years and above within JNU premises.
2. CRT is reaching out to every JNU community member, who has tested COVID-19 positive and extending them of all possible help. For this purpose, an email ID: response.covid19@jnu.ac.in, and a website with important information/notifications and circulars have been created.
3. The CRT undertakes food delivery to community members who have tested COVID-19 positive, and helping with food preparation and medicines procurement.

4. CRT is consolidating and constantly updating contact details of every COVID-19 helpline of government agencies/non-government agencies/hospitals/plasma donation/ oxygen supplies/ambulances/beds for COVID-19 positive patients, and contacting them when the need arises.

5. CRT is regularly issuing appeals to garner volunteers for Plasma donation for those who require them in COVID-19 critical care. Similarly, notices have been put out to observe COVID-19 appropriate behaviour within the campus even if they have been vaccinated for the safety of those who have not been vaccinated yet. The security team actively monitors and makes announcements through public address systems.

6. NSS volunteers and NCC cadets of JNU have organized webinars with academic experts on COVID-19 virus and medical practitioners to spread awareness about the virus and COVID-19 appropriate behaviour amongst the University community members. They have been carrying out numerous COVID-19 awareness drives in the campus since COVID-19 outbreak.

7. CRT is constantly striving to extend all possible help to JNU community in procuring beds/oxygen/plasma to those in need for critical care.

8. The CRT is constantly appealing and assisting University community members in registering for COVID-19 vaccination.

9. The CRT has also created a pool of about 12 physicians and public health nurses – from among current JNU students as well as alumni, to provide primary care advice on the phone, and in particular, act as a peer-to-peer support for students.

10. Health Center of JNU has increased its contact numbers so that University community members can reach out to the doctors for inquiry and ambulance. The morning shift works form 0800hrs-1400hrs, evening shift from 1500hrs-2100hrs, and night shift from 2100hrs-0800hrs.

11. For the mental health well-being of its students and other members of the JNU community, psychiatric consultation in www.yourdost.com along with its contact details have been circulated and advertised. The students and other University community members have to log-in with their JNU internet access id to avail free counseling services.

12. The JNU administration is constantly taking stock of COVID-19 situation in the campus by holding regular meetings with different branches of the University administration – Hostel wardens, Inter-Hall administration, Health Center, Engineering Branch, Estate Branch, Sanitation Branch, and Finance Branch to explore solutions to better handle the COVID-19 situation in the campus.

The JNU administration is constantly coordinating with Delhi Government officials to secure testing, vaccination and hospitalization of those who are in need. With the help of the Office of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), JNU has in the past few months, organized several testing camps and a vaccination camp, wherein significant numbers of JNU community members have got tested in testing camps and vaccinated in vaccination camps. JNU appreciates the efforts of the Office of the SDM for extending necessary help in this regard. JNU has already

made requests to the Office of the SDM dealing with COVID-19 for vaccination camp for 18+ years old when it commences from 1st May 2021.

Further, for better management of the COVID-19 situation in the Hostels, each hostel has set up Students' Committees for synergy with the JNU administration and better execution of COVID-19 protocols within the Hostels. These Hostel Students' Committees help the Wardens of their respective Hostels in effectively executing all the COVID-19 protocols.

The Hostel Wardens along with the Hostel Students' Committees also decide on assigning certain rooms at appropriate location in their respective Hostels to those residents who have symptoms and have got themselves tested but have not received the result of the tests. Once the resident is tested positive, they are immediately shifted to "Quarantine Centers" by Ambulance. In this regard, the University has two ambulances with oxygen support to assist transport of any resident to Quarantine Centers or hospitals as per the requirement and direction of University's Chief Medical Officer.

JNU Administration appreciates the concerns of each member of the University community and always welcomes all constructive suggestions to effectively fight the COVID-19 pandemic in the campus. JNU is committed to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic with cooperation and help of the government and cooperation of its community members.

It would be very helpful, if a special grant is released to JNU to upgrade the health centre into a hospital so that the University can more effectively tackle the health needs of the campus community.

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