

Jawaharlal Nehru University
Press Release

29th April 2021

Well before the COVID-19 situation began to worsen in Delhi, the JNU Administration made several plans and preparations to reach out to the members of the campus community, who needed help in hospitalisation, treatment and arranging isolation for the patients in government isolation centres, so that the spread of Covid-19 may be contained and damage minimised.

With the small Health Centre available in the University and with only a few doctors and part-time specialists meant to cater to normal patients for medical advice, the University is not equipped to handle Covid-19 related cases. Therefore, a Covid-19 Response Team (CRT) was mobilised with the support of young teachers, NCC and NSS volunteers, and a few faculty who have basic medical training to assist and advise the community who need either hospitalisation or isolation within their homes. This team works round-the-clock in establishing contact with the hospitals for beds, doctors for medical advice on telephone or online, arranging food for those who are in no position to prepare food at their houses.

For the students living in our various hostels, a parallel team of wardens and hostel resident volunteers have designated in every hostel, a few rooms with dedicated washrooms as quasi-isolation corners, where the students with mild symptoms are shifted, until their Covid-19 testing is done and further necessary arrangements, if required, are made. Such students get their meals delivered to their isolation rooms, and all other residents get their food individually to their respective rooms from the mess, following Covid-19 safety guidelines and appropriate behaviour. This system has been working well, because the occupancy in the hostels is much less than the normal times.

Alongside this help, the Covid-19 Response Team also coordinates with Delhi Government officials to secure Covid-19 testing, vaccination and hospitalisation of those who need it. JNU had organised several testing camps in the campus, and another one just completed yesterday. A second Vaccination Camp has started on 29th April where a large number of residents have registered and come forward for vaccination. JNU Administration is in regular contact with SDM office/Delhi Govt. and appreciates their help and cooperation for providing testing and vaccination facilities in the campus, as well as their verbal assurance for providing oxygen supply support to a few isolated patients with mild cases, who may need oxygen support before getting the hospital bed.

JNU Administration is extremely sensitive to the need of its members in these difficult times. Any constructive suggestion that can augment the measures already put in place to facilitate and help Covid-19 affected people in the campus is most welcome. However, we strongly condemn the canard and falsehood spread against JNU Administration by a few faculty members. One expects maturity and sensitivity from such teachers in offering practicable suggestions, which could strengthen our fight against Covid-19 in the campus. Nonetheless, such motivated statements would not affect our commitment and resolve in continuing our work in bringing help and succour to the affected members of JNU. We seek cooperation and help from everyone in the campus.



(Prof. Heeraman Tiwari)
OSD to Vice-Chancellor