



APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University
(A State Government University)

An appeal to all Principals, Faculty and Students under the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University to be part of Kerala State's Corona Safe Network

Sub: Constitution of COVID Cell in all Institutions- Strengthening of surveillance measures- Preparedness and support: reg:-

Ref: GO(Rt)No: 489/2020/HEDN, dated 23 -03-2020

Dear all,

As you are aware, WHO declared COVID 19 as a pandemic depicting that the entire world is at risk due to this disease. Accordingly, the Government of Kerala has strengthened the surveillance and control measures to combat this deadly virus. It has become mandatory, vide GO cited above, that all the college campuses including hostels under Higher Education Department are to be made available for the effective management of the disease as and when required by the Government authorities. The Principals are entrusted to do all necessary arrangements as cited in the GO at the earliest, including the formation of a quick response COVID 19 Cell, and **be ready to provide fullest support to the Government in enhancing the preparedness of our State in our fight against this deadly disease.**

In this context, we would like to suggest the following:

1. Each COVID 19 Cell must develop an Institutional/regional level operational plan to support the State Government/District Administration to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 in line with their Strategic preparedness and response plans.
2. In addition to the formation of a COVID 19 Cell, let us request and rely on the innate skills, compassion, social commitment, innovative inquisition, and unlimited efficiency of our students and faculty members, in developing innovative initiatives.
3. A few initiatives that can be implemented at the institution level are listed below. Please urge the students and faculty members to plan and initiate actions in these. Once there are operational models this can be linked with State Government's Corona Safe Network, if permitted.

- **Establishment of Corona Care Centers (CCCs)**

Healthcare of our State will collapse if a huge patient load enters our health care system beyond its designed capacity. In order to effectively manage such a massive load from our Health Care system, we need to augment the capacity by providing Corona Care Centers (CCCs) which can be established using the available infrastructure and other resources possessed by the educational Institutions. CCC is a temporary facility to be created to augment the healthcare system of the State/District in anticipation of a critical wide-spread pandemic. Such a system will ensure that all admitted patients will get adequate and necessary treatment without burdening our present health care systems. These CCCs ideally be managed by a professional team comprising of minimum doctors,

nursing Staff, support Staff, IT engineers and counseling staff with the fullest support of the host Institution, ensuring its smooth functioning. Details of setting up of CCCs will be intimated in due course.

- **Covid-19 Triage Mobile App**

As the incidents of Covid-19 are slowly on the rise with each passing day, there will be tremendous pressure on the healthcare system to perform the following activities viz. performing the tests; tracking and geofencing the affected; providing medicine, food and counseling care; enable health workers to do large-scale screening etc. It would be ideal to develop a **mobile triage application** in compliance with the assessment and treatment protocol whose work can be automated at the origin to ease the pressure on our available health care system considerably. This app will be an ideal tool for a team of software engineers and health professionals, to handle the present situation. It will be a handy tool in future as well.

- **Food Banks/Community Kitchen**

A minimum of one food bank in each of the 14 districts to be run by our student volunteers is another initiative we can think off. The college **hostel canteen can be used/converted as the community kitchen** upon request from district administration/local self governments. These food banks can deliver food packets to the people under compulsory isolation in corona centers. The food packets can either be prepared centrally or it can be donated by individuals mainly the families of our students and faculty. The collection and supply networks can be managed by the Institution with own faculty members, students and social

volunteers. Details are to be worked out after detailed discussions with the district administration/local self-government authorities.

- **Food Preparation/Grocery Collection and Distribution App**

We also need to explore the possibility of **developing a food app** for managing a food supply chain, wherein, households can prepare a meal for those individuals/families who are highly in need of the same. Such an application, if implemented on a long-term basis, will be a sustainable model to alleviate the issue of starvation in our state, at least to a certain extent. We sincerely hope that this noble endeavor will receive the fullest cooperation and appreciation from all concerned stakeholders.

- **Pedestal Operated/Sensor operated Community Sanitation stations**

One of the biggest problems faced by the current sanitizing centers is that everyone has to turn the pipe open with their hands. There are several models which use a pedestal/sensor to release the water through the tap. Such models can be installed at every bus stop/key area/public space along with the hand sanitizer utilizing the support of local self government authorities.

- **Technical Maintenance Team**

Maintenance of medical equipment including ventilators will be a big challenge that we will be facing in the immediate future. Each Institution shall keep a team of trained technicians at their disposal to serve as a technical maintenance team.

Preparation/procurement of masks, gloves, sanitizers etc with inputs from concerned departments can also be undertaken by the team.

- **Engineer volunteers**

The heads of Institutions must provide proactive help in mobilizing engineer volunteers for various critical tasks that are lying ahead to support the State Government/district administration initiatives in its efforts to deal with any emergency the situation.

- **Infographics preparation**

Students can develop infographics based on the available data from the state health department. Based on such data, evidence-based control strategy decision making is possible. The potential of preparing Google map-based infographics for the affected regions/points can also be explored. GPS based tracking of quarantined individuals along with that of food/consumables reaching the quarantined location can also be performed. Data aggregation and infographic representations-based WHO news feeds can be prepared. This app will serve as an ideal tool along with the data aggregation from health department/airports/media etc. Please contact the district administration/district medical officer (DMO) in this regard.

- **Short informative video content for Social media**

Students can prepare short video presentations as per the direction from the Health authorities for social media circulation. Students can start/administrate official online media/You Tube channel for the department of health.

Dear principal, you need to act according to the directives given in the documents above if the district administration requires your facility/services for the purposes. The objective of this letter is for your Institution to plan in advance to meet an emergency situation, though we earnestly hope that we will not come to such a level. But, as a professional fraternity, we have to have our action plans ready for supporting the people of our State in line with the strategy and directions from our Government/district administration. However, at this period of lockdown, **all such voluntary works need be initiated only with the permission of the concerned regulatory agencies.**

Dear all, fighting an epidemic like corona requires synthesis of theoretical knowledge, technical skill, scientific temper, patience, commitment and a tinge of humanism. **With the extraordinary skill and finesse with which we nipped Nipah virus right at its bud, we will surely be able to fight and defeat the corona virus too.**

Thanking you

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