

**BHARATI VIDYAPEETH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) MEDICAL COLLEGE,
PUNE**

**Sub: Clarifications on issues raised by parents/ MBBS students in relation to reopening
of medical college**

Dear Parents/ Students,

1. At the outset I hope this letter finds you and your family well and safe from the COVID19 menace.
2. Consequent to the issue of instructions for rejoining of MBBS students in college dated 21st Oct 2020, a number of requests have been received by email in this office on various aspects of the rejoining policy and apprehensions regarding the same. These are clarified in the succeeding paragraphs.
3. The commencement of colleges is subject to regulations of Central/State government. The prevalence of COVID19 in Pune has drastically come down in the last 10 days to about 200 to 300 cases per day in the city, and not 4000 cases as expressed by a few parents. This is expected to further decrease gradually. The talked about resurgence is an aspect which is not in our hands. If it does happen, it is expected that the Government will then issue instructions for lockdown, if required, when this institution will also comply accordingly.
4. MUHS Nashik and some other state medical universities have already commenced their medical colleges and have declared their schedule for final exams. We do not want our students to lag academically in comparison to students from other universities, when they appear for PG NEET after 2- 4 years depending on their current academic status or result in a delay in completion of the MBBS course.
5. Our regulatory council has categorically stated that practicals/Clinical skills have to be conducted after commencement of colleges before the students become eligible and appear for examinations. (BOG-MCI letter dated 4-8-2020)
6. MCI has permitted online classes but has not given any permission to conduct exams online and so exams have to be conducted off line. A few institutions have conducted theory exams online depending on the circumstances but practicals are being conducted offline only.
7. The college is also worried that any delay in commencement of colleges should not affect the academic career of the students in future, as there are guidelines with regards to commencement of internship and eligibility for appearance in PG NEET exams. As of today there are no specific guidelines from our regulatory body.
8. In fact the feedback we have received repeatedly from many students during online classes is that they wish to return to college and recommence training in person.
9. Student can report to the hostel/stay of residence before Diwali to avoid exposure during travel. The students have lost 7 months of their practical/clinical training. The I MBBS final exams were scheduled in September. Considering the loss in academics Diwali should not be the priority this year.
10. Hostel is an extended family where two or three students share a room. The similar situation prevails when the student is staying at home with his family members. All the students are MEDICAL STUDENTS who are aware about hand hygiene, social distancing and other COVID19 precautions.

11. Time schedule will be given by Hostel authorities for utilizing common facilities like dining, laundry, water etc. College and hostel authorities will take all the necessary precautions required in the current pandemic. The students also should follow all norms as elaborated in the instructions issued earlier and keep their social interactions to bare minimum and to only the essential.
12. The management and hostel authorities are planning to open an outlet for essential items in the hostel itself so that students do not have to go out to buy essential things like soap, toothpaste etc.
13. All of us including students are in health care and so we should set an example for other non-medical colleges to follow. Many of our students have volunteered for COVID duties in the city as well.
14. Those who are not willing to give consent may stay at home and directly appear for preliminary examination. However, this college will not be held responsible for any shortcomings of students arising out of absence at clinics/ practical classes which are scheduled. Time permitting, a few revision practicals may be arranged during preparatory leave before final university exams.
15. The requirement of consent from parents is a part of the documentation process as dictated by Government of India guidelines. The certificate from students is a requirement to ensure that they follow existing instructions as required by local authorities.
16. We also care about the health of the student and they are also family for us, but at the same time academic career should also not be affected. However, we need to remember that COVID19 will probably be a part of our life and environment for a long duration of time and colleges cannot be kept closed indefinitely.
17. Our teaching hospital, Bharati Hospital and Research Centre, is one of the reputed COVID designated hospitals in Pune with excellent results in management of patients. Adequate arrangements are already existing for our faculty, residents and non-teaching staff for treatment and quarantine, which will be extended to UG students when they return. Young people have at worst mild disease and we have not experienced any complications amongst our staff.
18. In fact, we are including the names of students, in information submitted to Pune Municipal corporation for priority in distribution of vaccine, once it is approved for use.
19. In view of the above I request all of you to appreciate the situation in the interest of students and their careers and enable us to restart college schedules unhindered.

Brig(Retd) Dr N S Mani
Principal