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RELEASE COMMUNICATION TO ALL UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA STAFF AND STUDENTS (SRMS, HRMIS, UG WEBSITE)

THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA
TMC PRECAUTION RESPONSE UPDATE # 7.
MARCH 23, 2020. 8.30 pm. Communication Contains 1000 words.

TMC UPDATE ON NCV-19 PREVENTION MEASURES IN FORCE FOR ALL UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA
STAFF AND STUDENTS

Dear UG Family:

Good evening. While there is no reason to panic we today decided to take no chances with the safety of our staff and students as new global information emerges regarding the trajectory of NCV-19.

It has now been 11 days since the first case of NCV-19 (Coronavirus of 2019) was confirmed in Guyana. As you are aware TMC had already taken a decision to restrict physical contact and interaction and then extended that mandate to March 30, 2020.

We could now be within the vulnerable window in which the infection path can skyrocket or decline. *Much of this depends on each of us and what we do to protect ourselves and others. In other words, precaution for prevention is our best defense now.*

WE WISH TO SUPPORT THE Self Isolation AND TOTAL RESTRICTED PHYSICAL CONTACT. UG WILL NOW ENFORCE A TOTAL LOCKDOWN FROM WED MARCH 25 UNTIL APRIL 20. This now includes ALL staff AND ALL STUDENTS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

We wish to also to extend sincere and profound thanks to all staff members who have been working through the previous precautionary period to keep administrative functions, cleaning, Medex, security, bursary, personnel, registry, estates, Library, Faculties and Higher administration.

We also gently remind everyone that UG is not closed or on holiday but is instead working off campus as far as possible. *We continue to work online from our secure spaces as far as possible. Please check UG website for ALL FORMAL Communication from UG including emergency contact numbers in the work safe mode.*

KEY ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR: During the last 5 days the following was undertaken with regard to precautions for the virus and moving forward:

1. MoH held two sessions with key personnel and a training session with UG Medex
2. Safety gear, heat gun, gloves and masks were provided to the Medex through MoH
3. UG Infectious diseases task Force (IDETF) led by Davon Van Veen and Patrick Ketwaroo working with the maintenance dept and others produced UG's own sanitizers for our buildings and free distribution to staff on site
4. Staff onsite were equipped with gloves, masks, sanitizers and supported with sanitized UG transportation to and from assembly spots.
5. Training briefs and internal protocols were prepared for UG by the IDETF. These were designed and printed by the Emergency Communications Task Force (ECTF) led by PRO, Denise Braam and Tara Smith. These were distributed to all essential staff including Berbice.
6. The Communications Task Force also began the UG Citizen Scientist Series which focuses on local and inexpensive ways to create sanitizers to keep safe, to get the foods needed to support good immune health. This is now available on <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIGPT-M7wJjUCi7keJS4qlpxaDAoVU6in>
7. Equipment and supplies were also provided to the Berbice Campus.
8. Safety briefing with all essential staff working on campus was held on Wed
9. Temporary Security fence to secure the campus from stray animals and others has now been completed and can facilitate a total lock down more easily.
10. Plumbing's and fittings for 15 exterior washing stations to be stationed around the campus purchased and are being installed now.
11. Fumigation of inhabited and temporarily uninhabited buildings continued by UG staff including at Berbice which was the first to do it using a special sanitizer based on Neem bush prepared by Prof Gomes, Director of UGBC.

KEY ACTIONS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:

12. TMC continued to work on 4 main responses to support our academic and administrative core services in this moment and going forward. The following will be supported moving forward through Moodle, Zoom, Edmodo, Online Proctoring and Exam Soft.
 - a) Support and Facilitate online teaching (Moodle mainly)
 - b) Support and facilitate online testing (Moodle mainly)
 - c) Support and facilitate the administrative work of Faculties online (Zoom)
 - d) Support and facilitate important administrative meetings online (Appointments, Academic Board, Academic Policy and Planning, Intervening Panels, Board of Graduate Studies, Finance and General Purposes, Council, Estimates , Buildings and all other ad hoc committees including task forces) (Zoom)

13. A limited number of Zoom licenses have been purchased and are to be assigned 2 accounts per Faculty for shared use. These will be assigned to Asst Deans and Admin Officers to assign on an as needs basis. Faculties have been advised to prioritize Persons who requested zoom support prior to today.
14. A comprehensive circular will be sent to all teaching staff by Wed March 25, on the University's assessment policy during this period.
15. We will also be sending out a survey to staff and students regarding their experience of online teaching/learning efforts during this period.
16. Students who have had no contact or no lessons at all during the last 3 weeks are asked to contact their lecturers, and to copy their Deans and the TMC at fixug@uog.edu.gy

We wish to thank everyone who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support these and other initiatives during the last few weeks.

PLEASE REMEMBER

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

- a) **Self isolation** - avoiding contact and public congregations
- 2) **Vigilance** - Looking for signs and symptoms in yourself and others and taking the necessary precautionary steps attached.
- 3) **Education** - Learn as much as you can about the disease and about staying safe and healthy. help others to do the same.
- 4) **Sanitization**: Continue to practice good personal hygiene and encourage others to do the same. Hand washing and other simple practices can keep you and loved ones healthy.
- 5) **Boost your immune system** to be able to fight infection though sunning yourself and personal items, adding vitamin C, B, D, E and K to your diet, and by staying calm.
- 6) **Seek Care**: if you or a family member develop(s) any of the symptoms, you/he/she should remain at home and contact the MoPH hotline at 227-4986 ext. 215 or 624-3067 for further assistance.

REMEMBER UG COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS:

Please continue to check UG secure sources for updates. Official sources would be your UG email, WhatsApp and UG website (Not FB).

THE UNIVERSITY WILL NOT POST ANYTHING TO FACEBOOK IN THIS PERIOD SINCE WE WISH TO SEPARATE OUR OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM ANY FAKE NEWS CIRCULATING.

Please use the time at home wisely. And please join Prof. Past Francis and UGIREE in planting something in your home, garden, verandah, kitchen, anywhere.

May we continue to be blessed and to work together to overcome.