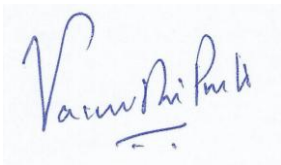


# **NOTICE**

## **2018/19 Batch**

**The accommodation facilities will be available only for the 2018/19 batch from 06<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

**The guidelines from the covid -19 Steering committee, University of Peradeniya, are attached.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vasanthi Perera', is positioned above the typed name of the Dean of Medicine.

**DEAN/ MEDICINE**

**01<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

## **Staggered Re-opening of the University of Peradeniya**

Decision to re-open/ close or quarantine should be taken in consultation with the university grants commission decisions, and in collaboration with the public health officials from the Regional Directorate of Health Services. Once the approval is obtained please follow the guideline below under different headings along with the UGC guidelines (Guidelines for resumption of activities in Universities in Sri Lanka. June 2021. Annexed).

1. Accommodation
2. Faculty policies on Teaching (physical & online), Practical/clinical & Exams
3. Canteen policies
4. Usage of common areas – ground/gymnasium/swimming pool/Library
5. Restriction on official & social gatherings
6. Attire & other infection control protocol (Faculty based covid committee)
7. COVID testing (symptomatic & random), quarantine & treatment protocols

### **1. Accommodation**

Make it mandatory to provide completed vaccine card to obtain accommodation. Students who have not taken the vaccination due to medical reasons should be identified by the faculty level as soon as possible in order to arrange it through university health care system.

Each faculty should take necessary steps to ensure all students are accommodated within the university and batches are not asked to look for out of campus accommodation. Hence academic programme should be planned based on the availability of accommodation facilities.

#### **A. Number of students in a room**

- Student groups exposing to the patients/community preferably given a single room facility however the maximum will be two students occupancy.
- Student groups confiding to the university premises can accommodate according usual capacity of the rooms. (Maximum usual capacity/ pre-covid capacity)
- The allocation of the respective halls of residences and the exact number of rooms per each faculty to be decided at the Deans meeting based on the priorities of the individual faculties.
- There should be a pre-allocation of the students to the rooms according the bio bubble concept and rooms to be informed to students before arrival.
- Each faculty should send a google form to the students two days prior to the arrival of the hostels to gather basic demographic information, COVID status, Vaccine status and chronic illnesses

- B. Practice the bio bubble concept when allocating the rooms and wash rooms.  
Eg: Based on the faculty/year of study/subject stream/clinical groups
- C. Designated Isolation/ Sick Room
- It is essential to keep at least 1-2 designated sick rooms per wing/floor
  - If the need arises there should be a mechanism to assign a separate wash room for suspected/sick students.
  - It is recommended to keep a first aid box including paracetamol, ORS, antihistamines and a preferably a finger pulse oximeter
  - Any student who develops symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should have the ability to contact the sub wardens at any given time and move in to a sick room
- D. Establish accommodation sub committees involving all stakeholders (including Warden, Sub wardens, few Academic representatives and few student representatives)
- This is to early identification of sick students and direct them to get isolate and the testing done as early as possible.
  - To supervise the infection control practices.
- E. It is recommended to practice in room dining (to avoid the using of common areas for dining). Hence students should use their own utensils (cup & plate) to practice proper hygienic conditions. Faculty and hostel canteen owners should ensure adequate ventilation in the canteen premises, and arrange queues keeping with distancing requirements. All canteens should have hand washing facilities with a continuous supply of water and soap. This is to clean hands to avoid contamination their own food to be taken to their rooms.
- F. The occupants are advised not to move in and out of the university premises until the steering committee gives their recommendation.
- G. Maintain the designated quarantine hostel as per the existing practice
- H. Maintain the Mahakanda ICC as per the existing practice

## **2. Faculty policies on Teaching (physical & online), Practical/clinical & Exams**

- A. It is advisable to start the university with minimum number of batches depends on the priority of each faculty and to increase the uptake gradually.
- B. We recommend to bring down the individual batches based on the priority to smooth acclimatization. Maintain at least one week gap between two batches entering to the university.

- C. We recommended to continue online teaching as much as possible for lectures and tutorials.
- D. For the physical sessions / practical – The occupancy rate should be less than 50% of seating capacity with good ventilation. Please follow the UGC guideline. (Annexed).
- E. Equipment/ instrument sharing should be minimized. Hence alternative methods should be adopted as much as possible. Eg: Projecting images in spite of sharing a single microscope by number of students.
- F. Attire – Students with mandatory clinical/ community exposure are advised to use clinical scrubs or similar suitable, easily washable attires.
- G. Students attending to clinical environments should adhere to COVID guidelines of respective institutions.
- H. Exams – Should be conducted in accordance with UGC guidelines, occupying 50% of seating capacity.
- I. Faculty based COVID sub committees should be appointed under the purview of the Dean to look into above requirements.

### **3. Faculty Canteen policies**

- A. It is recommended to have different time allocations for different batches to use common faculty canteens.
- B. Standard infection control practices including hand washing, seating arrangements, social distancing while waiting and ensuring adequate ventilation should be encouraged.
- C. Meal sharing is strictly prohibited.
- D. Encourage use of open areas as much as possible for dining.
- E. All canteen service providers should be vaccinated and be monitored for symptoms.

### **4. Usage of common areas – ground/gymnasium/swimming pool/Library**

- A. Main library can be opened ensuring ventilation and allowing occupancy at 50% of the capacity

- B. University grounds can be used for individual use, team events should not be organized till the situation improves.
- C. University authorities should ensure the same practices apply to non-student users of these facilities too.
- D. Swimming pool and gymnasium can be opened once the national guidelines allow to use those.

#### **5. Restriction on official & social gatherings**

- A. Social gatherings should not be allowed till the situation improves further.
- B. Meetings should be held online as much as possible, and for physical meetings, the option of joining online should be made available.
- C. A self-declared symptomatic screening should be done before participants are allowed to attend to meetings or any other common gatherings which a mandatory.
- D. These should be held in venues that are ventilated and the maximum number of participants allowed should be less than 50% of the normal capacity.
- E. Any official meetings or other gatherings should not serve food to be consumed at common venues. If serving food is essential, please request participants to take their packs and consume individually in well ventilated areas.

#### **6. Attire & other infection control protocol (Faculty based covid committee)**

- A. Attire – Students with mandatory clinical/ community exposure are advised to use clinical scrubs or similar suitable, easily washable attires. Rest of the students can use their normal clothes which are easily washable.
- B. Infection Control Protocol - Students are to follow the infection prevention and control guidelines issued by the respective institute (eg hospital), or faculty

#### **7. COVID testing (symptomatic & random), quarantine & treatment protocols**

A symptom based testing approach should be taken in keeping with the national testing guidelines. All symptomatic students and staff should be directed to the university health center for testing. When a student/staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, formal risk exposure assessments should be done by the faculty risk assessment committees followed by confirmation with the university health center. Health-related faculties may adapt their own protocols and communicate with the UHC Chief Medical Officer will remain the final authority on decisions regarding risk assessment/ quarantine and isolation.

## **COVID testing (symptomatic & random), isolation, quarantine & treatment protocols.**

Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health would be followed. Any deviation should be discussed with relevant content experts from the University COVID-19 steering/management committee. The students and staff who are engaged in clinical activities will be followed up under health care workers guideline for the testing, isolation and quarantine purposes.

### **A. Testing**

1. Testing to be done on resident / non-resident students and workers who are symptomatic and / or primary contacts as per existing guidelines.
2. All students to be given health education via online communication / leaflets
3. Faculty and Accommodation COVID subcommittees to coordinate testing process with university health center
4. To strengthen the testing facilities, requirements and manpower of UHC through university administration
5. To ensure supply of adequate laboratory testing facilities (RAT & PCR)
6. Random testing will not be practical. Mass level testing to be considered when an outbreak is suspected in a locality after evaluating the degree of exposures.

### **B. Isolation and quarantine**

1. It is recommended to keep male and female quarantine facilities with individual rooms for primary contacts until exit PCR. If separate halls cannot be assigned for this purpose at least separate floors of Mahakanda ICC to be assigned.
2. Each halls of residence to have a few designated isolation rooms for early isolation of symptomatic students, with designated washrooms, etc.

### **C. Treatment**

1. Asymptomatic positive students to be monitored at Mahakanda ICC under medical supervision.
2. Symptomatic students to be transferred to Government facilities. RDHS and Director/THP to be informed of such arrangement.