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February 11, 2022

Partial Relaxation of Covid Third Wave Regulations in TIFR

(February 11, 2022)

We are in receipt of an OM from the DAE, No. 16/6/2020-SCS/Vol-VI/2107 dt. 11.02.2022 (**Annexure 1**), with which is enclosed an OM No. 11013/9/2014-Estt.-A-III dt. 06.02.2022 from the DoPT, GoI, restoring normal attendance in Government offices w.e.f. 07.02.2022. We are also in receipt of an OM from the DAE, No. 16/6/2020-SCS/Vol-VI/1894 dt.07.02.2022(**Annexure 2**), enclosing the Government of Maharashtra Order No. DMU/2020/CR.92/DisM-1 dt. 31.01.2022, where various relaxations in covid-protocols have been announced.

In view of the above, and noting a significant abatement of the pandemic third wave within the TIFR community and in the city of Mumbai and its environs, the following advisory is being issued w.e.f. February 11, 2022. This will remain valid till the issuance of further orders.

- 1. Research and Academic Matters:** All research and academic matters may be brought back to normal levels, either immediately, or in a phased manner, if found necessary. PI-s may kindly note that the Technical Services would be a little slow in responding to work orders if they receive too many at the same time on resumption of normal work.
- 2. Administrative and Technical Work:** Administrative and technical work may, likewise, be brought back to normal levels, and all backlogs cleared as soon as possible. Recruitment procedures which have been held up due to the pandemic may resume.
- 3. Attendance:** All Institute members and temporary staff must resume normal attendance w.e.f. 14.02.2022. All work-from-home provisions granted under the notification dt. 05.01.2022 hereby stands withdrawn, and therefore Leave Rules will resume as usual. However, the biometric attendance record will remain suspended for the present. Section Heads and PI's must record attendance using a muster roll or any other means.

4. **Students & Visiting Fellows:** Students and Visiting Fellows who have left the campus should plan to come back by the end of February 2022. Visiting students and postdocs from other institutions may start coming to the Institute without restriction. Day scholars may also come and go freely with immediate effect.
5. **Classes, Seminars and Colloquia:** All classes, seminars, colloquia may be resumed in person or in hybrid mode, under the condition that no room will have more than 50% occupancy. All covid-safe protocols must be strictly followed in such gatherings.
6. **Meetings and Discussions:** Meetings may be held in person provided there is not more than 50% occupancy in any single room. Larger meetings may be held in online/hybrid mode. Serving of refreshments during in-person meetings may resume.
7. **Recreational facilities:** Recreational facilities may resume normal operations, subject to covid-safe protocols.
8. **Visitors Programme and the Guest House:** The Visitors' Programme may resume for fully-vaccinated visitors. The Guest House will resume normal operations from 14.02.2022, keeping a limited number of rooms reserved for 'home isolation' as and when necessary.
9. **Canteens:** The East and West Canteen, and the Jagadish Students' Canteen, will ramp up their services to normal levels. For the sake of safety, all patrons are advised
 - a. to keep their face masks on at all times except when actually eating and/or drinking;
 - b. not to spend more time in the canteens than is strictly needed for meals/snacks.
10. **Covid-safety:** Inside the Institute premises, the standard precautions against covid-19 infection, e.g., wearing face masks fully covering nose and mouth, frequent hand sanitization, maintaining social distancing (*do gaz kee doori*), etc. shall remain in force.
11. **Quarantine Rules:** The following rules will apply for home quarantine.
 - a. Anyone with symptoms of covid-19 should immediately inform the Medical Section, and take the treatment as advised.
 - b. The requirements for home isolation in different cases are enlisted below:

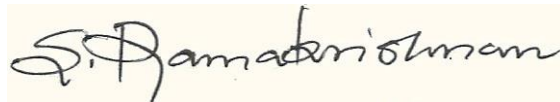
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|------|--|---|
| i) | Symptomatic, advised home quarantine | 7 days from onset of symptoms, <u>or</u> 3 days after remission of fever (whichever is later) |
| ii) | Tested positive, but asymptomatic | 7 days from date of sample taken |
| iii) | Asymptomatic close contacts of patient | 7 days from date of test report of patient |
| iv) | Post-travel and asymptomatic (both domestic and international travel) | No quarantine if fully vaccinated; 7 days home isolation otherwise |

- c. All the above absences due to quarantine and isolation will be regularized as Commuted leave (medical) or any other eligible leave.
- d. There will be **no** requirement of a negative covid test report after the completion of the quarantine period, unless otherwise instructed by the Medical Section.

12. **Vaccination:** I am happy to announce that, as per the survey conducted recently, almost all Institute members and temporary staff are fully vaccinated. Those few who are not yet vaccinated, or are partially vaccinated, are advised to get themselves vaccinated as soon as possible. Likewise, those who are eligible for a booster dose are advised to take it at the earliest opportunity.

Any continuing restrictions, except those under Para 10, will be reviewed in March, and further relaxations may be permitted if the situation warrants.

This supersedes all previous orders on the subject.



(S. Ramakrishnan)
Director

All Faculty, Staff, Post-docs and Students in Colaba