



टाटा मूलभूत अनुसंधान संस्थान

**TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH**

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March 7, 2021

**Emergency Measures to be Followed in view of the Recent Rise in Covid-19 Cases in TIFR**  
(March 8 — 21, 2021)

During the past two weeks, there has been a marked increase in the number of Institute members and families getting infected with Covid-19. Many are in hospitals and Government-designated covid centres. At no time during the past year has the TIFR community had so many active cases. In view of this, the following emergency measures must be followed from March 8, 2021(Monday) till March 21, 2021 (Sunday) or till further notice, whichever is earlier.

**A. March 8 - 9, 2021**

1. All laboratories, offices and facilities in the Institute are to remain in minimal operation during March 8 – 9, 2021. Only work which is essential or ongoing without a possibility of postponement should be carried out. All recreational activities must also remain suspended.
2. All activities, including teaching, seminars, meetings, discussions, which can be carried out in online mode, may do so. However, all physical classroom teaching which has been permitted recently must remain suspended for March 8 – 9, 2021.
3. Institute members who do not need to attend the Institute premises for work under the above items are advised not to come to work during March 8 – 9, 2021, with the consent of their PI/Section Head.

Absence under such terms will not be counted as leave. However, if the PI/Section Head deems it necessary to come, the Institute member is required to comply, failing which it will be treated as leave as per eligibility.

4. Non-essential facilities, e.g. gym, badminton court, etc. as well as the A-Block SIRC Reading Room shall remain closed during March 8 – 9, 2021.

5. The East and West Canteen operations will be as followed during total lockdown phase. A limited menu may be served as per availability of staff on essential duties. Jagadish Canteen may continue operations as usual.

**B. March 10 - 21, 2021**

1. All laboratories, offices and facilities in the Institute are permitted to resume work as before during March 10 – 21, 2021 with proper precautions (see Section C below). Recreational activities which do not involve close physical contact may be resumed.
2. Activities which can be carried out in online mode (see Item A.2 above) should continue in that mode. However, physical classroom teaching should continue to remain suspended during March 10 – 21, 2021.
3. PIs and Section Heads should prepare a roster (as was done in the previous year) and call Institute members on specific days as per that roster. The PIs and Sections Heads should ensure maximum flexibility with respect to rostering, staggered timings, and in particular, take care to safeguard persons with known co-morbidities. However, the regular work of the section/laboratory/facility should not be seriously affected.

Absence under such terms will not be counted as leave. However, if the PI/Section Head deems it necessary to come, the Institute member is required to comply, failing which it will be treated as leave as per eligibility.

4. Non-essential facilities, e.g. gym, badminton court, etc. shall remain closed during March 10 – 21, 2021. However, the A-Block SIRC Reading Room may reopen as usual.
5. The East and West Canteen operations will resume as usual. A limited menu may be served as per availability of staff.

**C. General Precautions (to be followed with the utmost seriousness)**

1. Individuals who come to the Institute for work should not stay on beyond the scheduled work hours. During this period, social interactions. e.g. chatting together, taking tea/meals together, etc. should be avoided to the maximum extent.
2. All are urged to strictly follow the standard precautions against infection, viz., wearing of face masks in the presence of others (at all times, but *especially* within confined spaces such as offices and laboratories), frequent hand sanitisation and maintenance of social distancing ('do gaz ki doori').

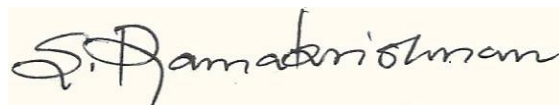
It has been noted with concern that in recent times, many individuals are not following these regulations properly. All are reminded that to be effective, **face masks must be worn covering the nose and mouth completely**. Spitting on campus is strictly forbidden at all times and may attract penalties.

3. Residents are requested, for some time, NOT to go out of the colonies unless it is really necessary. Social engagements, especially those involving individuals from other parts of the city, and vacations, should be postponed to the maximum extent possible.

**D. After March 21, 2021**

1. If the above measures lead to control of infections inside TIFR, they might be withdrawn. If so, the previous notices dated January 27, 2021 and February 25, 2021 will remain in force.
2. However, the covid situation will be constantly monitored. If there is cause for anxiety, the present restrictions may continue, or further restrictions may be imposed at short notice. The community will be notified accordingly.

I am once again appealing to all Institute members to show their good sense and permit us to break the chain of infection without taking any drastic action.



(S. Ramakrishnan)  
**Director**

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