OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

IMPORTANT COMMUNIQUE REGARDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

It has been brought to our notice that one of our learners has been tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The learner concerned had attended only one session in Room 1 from 10.30 to 12.30 on Saturday 6 March 2021 at the Open University of Mauritius Curepipe Campus (ex-MBC Building), Forest Side. As she lives near the campus she has not used OU vehicles to travel.

From the press cutting given at Annex 1 (Le Defi Quotidien of 10 March 2021: Page 4) it seems that the learner had an important gathering (Katam) at her place, the next day, that is, on Sunday 7 March 2021. We have been made to understand that she was fine on Saturday 6 March 2021 (cases of high temperature were not detected on the campus).

As a matter of precaution, the Open University of Mauritius advises all learners, staff, part time tutors, cleaning officers, security personnel and any other person who was at the Open University of Mauritius Curepipe Campus (OUCC) on Saturday 6 March 2021 and in particular those who may have come into contact with the learner tested positive for COVID-19 to follow the recommendations of the health authorities. The Guidelines of WHO is given at Annex 2.

Such persons should remain in self-isolation, contact the Health Authorities, and attend Health Care Facilities as indicated by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The phone numbers of several of these institutions are given at Annex 3.

The Open University of Mauritius would like to inform all learners, staff, part-time tutors and the public in general that the OUCC building at Forest Side is closed until further notice for thorough sanitisation of the premises on top of the regular process. All classes scheduled up to 25 March 2021 will be held online. Learners and part-time tutors are invited to contact their respective Programme Managers for further details.

As a measure of safety, all other learners, members of staff or persons who visited the OUCC on 7 March 2021 and afterwards are requested to follow the same procedures.

The Open University of Mauritius relies on the comprehension and collaboration of its learners, tutors, staff-members and all other stakeholders in its actions to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We pray for rapid recovery of our dear learner as well as that of her dear ones. OU is collaborating fully with the authorities. Let's work together to keep Mauritius safe.

Dr. K S Sukon, PFHEA
Director-General
Open University of Mauritius
10 March 2021

Annex 1

Positive à la Covid-19

Noorjahan Gungah a participé à une session de prière avec 250 autres personnes

Noorjahan Gungah, 21 ans, habite à Forest Side, à Curepipe. Elle s'est tournée vers Radio Plus pour raconter son vécu. Elle explique qu'elle s'est rendue dans une Flu Clinic du ministère de la Santé, le lundi 8 mars, à 8 heures, après qu'elle ait ressenti des symptômes. Et le mardi 9 mars, elle a eu ses résultats : son test PCR était positif à la Covid-19.

Admise à l'hôpital ENT, elle raconte avoir participé à une session de prière musulmane (katam) à son domicile où 250 personnes étaient conviées le dimanche 7 mars. « *Je ne me suis pas sentie très bien par la suite. Je suis allée au travail lundi matin, mais par la suite je suis allée à l'hôpital. Ce mardi, à 17 heures, une ambulance est venue me chercher chez moi, puisque mon résultat était positif* », raconte-t-elle.

Même scénario pour son oncle et sa tante qui ont participé aussi à ce katam dimanche. Actuellement, toute sa famille est en quarantaine ainsi que ses collègues. Noorjahan Gungah travaille comme réceptionniste chez Caudan Security à Port-Louis et environ 70 de ses collègues sont concernés par la recherche de contacts du ministère de la Santé.

Pour ce qui est des symptômes, elle indique avoir de la fièvre. Et, sur les ondes de Radio Plus, elle expliquait ne pas avoir eu à manger depuis son arrivée à l'hôpital. Mais le Dr Zouberr Joomaye, qui est intervenu après sa déclaration, a fait comprendre que dans certains cas, le patient doit rester à jeun, avant de pouvoir faire un scanner des poumons le lendemain matin. L'intervention de la patiente a aussi fait réagir le responsable de l'hôpital ENT, le Dr Sok Appadu, qui a fait ressortir qu'elle aura le traitement adéquat à l'hôpital.

Noorjahan Gungah précise que les personnes qui ont participé à la cérémonie religieuse habitent dans différentes régions de l'île

Annex 2

Extract taken from website of WHO

SERIOUS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE

- If you develop any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider or health facility and seek medical care immediately.
- **This is not an exhaustive list. These are the most common symptoms of serious** illness, but you could get very sick with other symptoms – if you have any **questions, call for help immediately.**

Shortness of breath/ Difficulty breathing

Loss of speech or mobility or confusion

Chest pain

MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS

Fever

Cough

Tiredness

Loss of taste or smell

LESS COMMON SYMPTOMS

Sore throat

Headache

Aches and pains

Diarrhea

A rash on the skin **or discolouration** of fingers or toes

Red or irritated eyes

Annex 3

Dr Jeetoo Hospital, Port-Louis : 203 1001

Eye Hospital, Moka : 433 40 15

Jawaharlal-Nehru Hospital, Rose-Belle : 603 7000

Sir Seewoosagur-Ramgoolam National Hospital (SSRNH),

Pamplemousses : 209 34 00

Brown-Séquard Hospital, Beau-Bassin : 402 1400

Flacq Hospital : 402 2400

Long Mountain Hospital : 245 25 71

Mahébourg Hospital : 604 2000

Poudre-d'Or Hospital : 283 75 68

Souillac Hospital : 603 7100

Mahatma-Gandhi Ayurveda Hospital, Calebasses : 243 07 72

Victoria Hospital & Princess Margaret Orthopaedic Centre, Candos, Quatre-Bornes : 402 0800

You are invited to visit the website for additional information: https://besafemoris.mu/