

No.375/DHTE/Tech./T2/2020
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

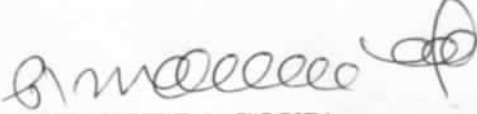
Puducherry, dt. 16.12.2020

CIRCULAR

Sub: DHTE – Tech. – Reopening of Colleges for all UG/PG final year students and Research Scholars in the UT of Puducherry- Regarding.

The Government of Puducherry has given orders to open the Colleges to the UG/PG final year students and Research Scholars in all the Colleges in the U.T. of Puducherry from **17.12.2020 (Thursday)**. Hence the Heads of Institutions are hereby instructed to strictly follow the SOP (copy enclosed). The Heads of the Institutions are instructed to make arrangements for sanitizers and temperature testing devices. The classes may be conducted for 6 days in a week. If the strength is more than 30, the classes may be conducted in batches.

Encl.: a.a.


(P.T. RUDRA GOUD)
**DIRECTOR OF HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

To:
The Principals/Head of Institutions of all Colleges.
U.T. of Puducherry.

Copy to

1. The OSD to Hon'ble Education Minister, Puducherry.
2. The Junior Accounts Officer, PONSHE, Puducherry.
3. The Junior Accounts Officer, PIPMATE, Puducherry.
4. The Member Secretary, PSHEC, Puducherry.
5. The P.S. to Secretary (Education), Chief Secretariat, Puducherry.
6. The PA to DHTE, Puducherry.
7. The PA to OSD, DHTE, Puducherry.

SOP for Opening of Colleges for final Year students in the Union territory of Puducherry

Consequent on the announcement of the COVID-19 Pandemic Lockdown, the Schools and Colleges were closed from March, 2020, in the Union territory of Puducherry, as a measure to contain COVID-19. Now, in view of the decline in the rate of spread of pandemic disease, the Government of Tamilnadu has announced in a press release that the Colleges for the students pursuing post-graduation in science and technology stream and students of final year classes for all colleges and Universities including Arts, Science, Technical (including Polytechnic and Hotel Management Institutions) Engineering courses from 2nd December, 2020 and subsequently postponed to 7th December, 2020 due to the hit of two consecutive cyclones in the State. The colleges in Tamilnadu were started from 7th December, 2020 on a set of Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) guidelines issued in this regard.

In the Union Territory of Puducherry also, the spread of COVID-19 pandemic is sharply reducing day-by-day and relaxation was issued on the public /commercial/business activities based on the directives / guidelines issued by the Government of India. The UGC in its guidelines has left the decision with the State Governments/Universities to decide on the reopening of classes on campus. As regards, opening of the Colleges in the UT of Puducherry, the stakeholders has been invited through video-conference on 11.11.2020. The participants were the College Heads (Government and Private Colleges) as well as the parents of the college students', and they had expressed their views and

suggestions on the reopening of Colleges. The stakeholders had stressed the need for re-opening of colleges atleast from the month of December, 2020 for the final year students adopting the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), as per the guidelines of Government of India. In line with the Government of Tamilnadu and owing to fall in the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and also keeping in mind to reconstruct the damages caused recently by the north-east monsoon and the two cyclones during the last week of November, 2020 and first week of December, 2020 in the Union territory of Puducherry, it has been decided to re-open the colleges in the Union Territory of Puducherry **from 17th December, 2020 in respect of the final year classes of Under-Graduate, Post-Graduate and Research Scholars in all the Colleges and Universities on the following illustrative SOP.**

- ✓ Institutions should prepare phased reopening and complete rosters for all departments and batches of students accordingly.
- ✓ Not more than 50% of the total students can be present on campus at any given point of time.
- ✓ Students can be allowed to visit their respective departments in a small numbers to meet and discuss with faculty members.
- ✓ Institutions will have to make provisions for students opting to study online, if students opt not to attend classes and prefer to study online while staying at home.
- ✓ Institutions are to provide online study material and access to e-resources to such students for teaching-learning.
- ✓ Students should compulsory wear face masks at all time, screening at entry and exit points, regular sanitization, and follow other pointers in the SOP.
- ✓ Teaching hours in a day to be extended, as per requirements of the institution

- ✓ Six-day schedule to be followed so that classes can be conducted in phases and the seating arrangement be made keeping in view the requirements of physical distancing.
- ✓ Universities and colleges have to reduce the class size and break them in multiple sections to maintain physical distancing during the classes. Minimum distance between two students should be **one meter** and entry/exit of students shall be permitted one by one with physical distance.
- ✓ Depending on the availability of space in classrooms or learning sites, up to 50% students alone are allowed on a rotation basis to attend the classes.
- ✓ Residential students who are coming from different locations, shall remain in quarantine and self monitor their health for a period of 14 days before being allowed to attend classes (even if they bring a negative test report or the university/college plan to test them on arrival)
- ✓ Set up helplines for health, psychological concerns and well-being of students in Universities/colleges which need to be regularly monitored by counselors and others identified faculties.
- ✓ Form COVID-19 "Help Groups" of students headed by Hostel Wardens / Senior faculty who can identify friends/classmates in need of help and provide them immediate necessary help.
- ✓ The instructions, guidelines and orders issued by the Central and State Governments on safety and health of the students should be abided by the Colleges/Universities without any deviations.