

Quarantine (15-06 to 29-06) experience in IISc

1. Health issue, direct calling to the doctor is the key: On the 12th day of my quarantine I was having chest pain. So, I contacted health center in a conventional way, calling to health center reception center and approaching security personal and It took quite a long time due to miscommunication. But it was good because the existing loophole in the conventional path is fixed now. I learnt that quarantined people are allowed to contact directly to any higher authorities, (I mean) to call any doctor or to send email to higher authority like hostel warden, hostel-in-charge, Prof. Dipshikha Chakravorty, and Assistant Registrar, Mr. Jayaraj. *(All the contact details were provided in the welcome kit. I contacted all of them and I am happy because they all enquired about my health in fact, Dr. Aditya called personally on the next day. Anyway, I am fine now, it was gastric and some cold problem.)*

The existing protocol: A person is assigned to bring medicine in our doorstep when necessary. One has to contact security office to get in touch of that person.

Glimpse of the problems and solutions, raising the issues to corresponding hostel warden is the key:

2. Hostel: Installation of separate **dustbins for food wastes** in the Hostel (although it took a while), fixing of **lights** in corridors and bathrooms in a manageable way (this was arranged very quickly in a single day, still not up to the mark, they promised to do), **bathroom cleaning** on a regular basis (frequency of cleaning and disinfecting increased over the time. In fact, cleaning is done at the midnight as well. Still, there are complaints to make it frequent and better.) **Hot water** did not come to many bathrooms at the beginning, (not sure it comes now or not). Wi-fi in the hostel is yet to come.

3. Mess: Social distancing is maintained (quite a lot of efforts from students, and also was enforced by admins providing special covid-guards across the campus). Although it was taking a little longer time at the beginning, we all managed the timing over the time.

At the end of the quarantine, my faith on IISc administration is strengthened.

A little more detail (mainly personal story): It all started with my mistake. The day I came to IISc, I was supposed to submit re-entry form. But this slipped from my mind probably due to my thesis colloquium before coming here or may be the faith I had on IISc administration that once I reach IISc campus they will not return me back. Obviously at first, security did not allow me to get in. But they gave me Mr. Jayaraj's number, the current Assistant Registrar, to find out the possible solution. I made a call to AR. He asked me to fill up the form there itself and submit online. In the meantime, he communicated with hostel warden and security officers and allowed me in. It took around 20 mins. This led me to write all procedures to reach IISc on my FB page which was helpful for many. As usual, first day itself we found out that although administration gave their possible efforts to block larger loopholes existed before, there were still a few small loopholes. But I would say they were very successful to make the working protocol in a practical way, which worked (working) till now (I believe). If I compare my previous experience of working with hostel office and the current one, I would say Corona really made "the crisis is an opportunity".

My views:

Although 350-400 people reached in the first phase, bringing even a smaller number of students would have been better. Staying back at home for the people (like me) who quite often fall sick, would be a better decision.