



# भारतीय दन्त परिषद

## DENTAL COUNCIL OF INDIA

(A STATUTORY BODY CONSTITUTED UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT, 1948)

SPEED POST/EMAIL/WEBSITE

No.DE-22-Academic(BDS)/2020 5007  
To

30  
Dated December, 2020

1. The Vice Chancellor of all universities affiliating dental colleges,
2. The DME of all the States,
3. The Principals of all Dental Colleges

**Sub: DCI guidelines/advisories and SOPs in pursuance of the directions of the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi contained in its D.O.No.V.12025/160/2020-DE dated 24.12.2020 for Re-Opening of Dental Colleges Post Lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Respected Madam /Sir,

I am directed to state that as we all are aware that the Universities and Dental Colleges across the country have been closed since March, 2020 when the Government of India announced a countrywide lockdown as one of the measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Keeping in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the Dental Council of India as well as the Government of India and respective State/UTs issued various guidelines in this regard from time to time. The universities and colleges however had put in their best efforts to continue their academic programmes and complete the syllabi using various ICT tools of teaching and learning since their closure from mid-March onwards.

2. The Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, vide its DO.No.V.11025/235/2020-MEP dated 25.11.2020 has asked all the Chief Secretary and the administrator of all the State/UTs to take necessary steps to open the medical colleges on or before 1.12.2020 complying all the SOPs/guidelines with respect to social distancing and prevention of spread of epidemic issued by them. The National Medical Commission has also issued certain guidelines and suggestive schedule of academic programme including university examinations in this regard. The Dental Council of India, on the similar lines of NMC on 11.12.2020 sent its self contained proposal with guidelines to Government of India for re-opening of dental colleges and for internship completion.

3. The Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi contained in its D.O.No.V.12025/160/2020-DE dated 24.12.2020 (**Annexure-I**), on the suggestion of the Dental Council of India, on the similar lines of NMC, has now requested that the Sates/UTs may take necessary steps to open the Dental Colleges on or before 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Needless to say, all the SOPs/guidelines with respect to social distancing and prevention of spread of epidemic issued by Central/States/UT Governments will be followed scrupulously by all the Colleges. Simultaneously, the GOI vide its letter of even number dated 28.12.2020 requested DCI to issue separate SOPs/guidelines of Dental Colleges and suggestive schedule of training of different classes.

4. It is also relevant to state that new academic session is going on and the universities and dental colleges need a customized plan, as per the local conditions where they are located, to deal with any eventuality arising due the COVID -19 before resuming the activities on campuses. The top priority, while opening the institutions, should be the safety, health and well-being of the students, teachers and staff.

Contd..2/-



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(A STATUTORY BODY CONSTITUTED UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT, 1948)

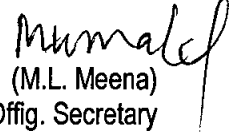
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5. The DCI has now accordingly framed and uploaded its "Guidelines for Re-Opening of Dental Colleges Post Lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic" (Annexure-II), "Tentative/Suggestive Schedule of Academic Programme –(Post Pandemic COVID 19 Situation) and its duration including University Exam" (Annexure-III) and Advisory on "Relaxation of three months period in submission of the Post Graduate dissertation/Thesis" (Annexure-IV) on its website which provide in detail the measures to be taken before re-opening of dental college. These guidelines/advisories may be adopted by the dental colleges as per the local conditions and directives of the Government authorities.

6. In view of the above, It is requested to adopt these guidelines and take necessary steps to implement them accordingly. Further, the universities/dental colleges are again requested to carry out the academic activities following necessary advisories / guidelines / directions issued by the Central / State Government, Ministry of Education (MoE) or UGC from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

With kind regards,

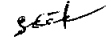
Yours faithfully,

  
(M.L. Meena)

Offg. Secretary  
Dental Council of India

Copy for information to:

The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health-(DE Section), Maulana Azad Road, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi- 110011, w.r.t. GOI letter No. V.12025/160/2020-DE [8087715] dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.



(M.L. Meena)  
Offg. Secretary  
Dental Council of India

CC:

1. The Acting President, Dental Council of India, New Delhi.
2. ARPM Section- for email and to upload on website



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS  
SECRETARY



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India  
Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O.No. V.12025/160/2020-DE  
24<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

*Dear Colleague,*

I would like to draw your attention towards my earlier D.O. letter No, V.11025/235/2020-MEP dated 25.11.2020 regarding the re-opening of Medical Colleges. On similar lines, Dental Council of India (DCI) has suggested that the Dental Colleges in the country may also be re-opened in order to enable continuation of classes.

2. Accordingly, I would like to request that the States/UTs may take necessary steps to open the Dental Colleges on or before 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Needless to say, all the SOPs/guidelines with respect to social distancing and prevention of spread of epidemic issued by Central/States/UT Governments will be followed scrupulously by all the Colleges.

3. Separate SOPs/guidelines for Dental Colleges and suggestive schedule of training for different classes is being communicated by the DCI shortly.

*Regards.*

Yours sincerely,

(Rajesh Bhushan)

To : Chief Secretary/Administrator of all States/UTs

# Dental Council of India



**GUIDELINES FOR  
RE-OPENING OF  
DENTAL COLLEGES  
POST LOCKDOWN  
DUE TO COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

Dental education is unique because students have to start performing dental procedures from 3<sup>rd</sup> Year onwards under supervision of faculty as per DCI BDS Course Regulations 2017. Some subjects have pre-clinical labs in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year for preparedness before entering into the clinic whereas in other subject students are allowed directly to start clinical work in 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

Keeping in view of the uncertainties of future due to Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the functioning of dental colleges, college authorities may reopen their campuses in a phased manner, ensuring safety, health, and well being of all students, faculty and staff. College authorities should plan opening of dental college in such a manner so that they are ready to handle any eventuality arising due to Covid 19.

The college authority may if required augment these guidelines for its strict implementation. In making specific guidelines, the college authorities shall consider the direction and advisory of centre / state govt., UT administration as well as national/ state disaster management authorities

**BDS Course Regulations 2007 shall continue to be applicable for teaching, clinical and lab training for BDS Curriculum.** However, changes in time table to accommodate staggered classes may be made while maintaining the number of teaching hours as prescribed in DCI BDS Course Regulations 2007.

The States/UTs may take necessary steps to open the dental colleges on or before 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. All the guidelines / SOPs with respect to social distancing and prevention of spread of epidemic issued by Central/ State/UT Governments/ DCI will be meticulously followed by all the colleges

#### **General preventive measures during Covid-19 Pandemic**

**The following health measures are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID- 19 by all (faculty members, employees, students and visitors) at all times:**

- I. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed as far as feasible.
- II. Use of face covers/masks to be made mandatory.
- III. Frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be done wherever feasible.
- IV. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing of used tissues properly.
- V. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest.
- VI. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited and punishable offence inside the campus as per the local Govt./ college authorities.
- VII. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised wherever feasible.
- VIII. Regular training of faculty, students, paramedical staffs and other supporting staffs should be provided on methods for controlling the spread of transmission.

- IX. Regular screening of faculty, staff and students should be carried out for any Covid like symptoms at points of entry of the college as well hostels.
- X. The period of absence of students on account of being quarantined due to Covid-19 shall not adversely affect their attendance on furnishing the necessary documents in support of their claim.
- XI. Regular visits of a counsellor to be arranged so that the faculty, staff and students may allay their anxiety, stress or fear during the pandemic time.
- XII. Guidelines of CPWD regarding air conditioning / ventilation as mentioned in UGC guidelines may be followed.

### **Teaching:**

1. Online mode of teaching should be promoted for lectures during Covid-19 Pandemic. The campus of dental colleges should be made WI-fi enabled
2. Students may be allowed to attend online classes inside the college campus, if need so arises.
3. Classrooms should be well ventilated for air entry and exit.
4. Facility of contactless disinfection/ hand washing has to be mandatorily provided by the college authorities at various strategic points.
5. Entry and exits of the students in lecture theatre, examination hall and other areas to be monitored to avoid crowding.
6. Lecture theatres should be sanitized after every lecture.
7. Simulation teaching and objective structured clinical/ practical training methods, case based learning and problem based learning should be endeavoured to be incorporated in the teaching learning modules.

### **Pre clinical labs:**

1. Students should be allotted designated working stations with at least 6 feet distance between them.
2. Labs should be well ventilated for air entry and exit.
3. Outside the lab the facility of contactless disinfection/ hand washing has to be mandatorily provided by the college authorities.
4. Respiratory etiquettes, mouth, nose, eye and ear cover should be strictly followed inside the lab.
5. Repeat labs should be arranged for the students who may have missed them due to inability to attend earlier labs because of Covid-19 disease/ containment zones.

### **Triage & Registration Area:**

1. Pre treatment assessment in triage area is a must before patients are permitted in the college.

2. Install glass / plastic barriers at the reception desk and consultation table.
3. Tele-consultation should be promoted for screening of patients.
4. The institution shall endeavour to provide contact less / cashless payment methods.
5. OPD time can be staggered and duration may be increased to avoid crowding.

**Waiting Room:**

1. Regular sensitization of patients should be carried out regarding preventive measures of control of Covid-19.
2. Waiting areas should be provided with audio/visual/printed educational material on Covid 19 prevention.
3. Seating in the waiting area of clinics should be marked to enable adequate social distancing.

**Clinical:**

1. Eye, ear, nose, mouth and shoe covers shall be mandatorily used by faculty, students and paramedical staff inside the clinics.
2. Patients attendant should not be allowed in the clinical area except with paediatric, geriatric and physically challenged patients with all safety measure.
3. Minimum 8 feet distance between two working chairs shall be mandatory for all the dental colleges irrespective of their date of commencement of BDS Course. This shall help in implementation of four handed dentistry.
4. Students in the clinics should be allowed with staggered timing to avoid any cross infection. However, clinical work should not be compromised.
5. Clinical postings, in order to facilitate all type of clinical work, should be planned in such a manner so that at a given point of time, both 3<sup>rd</sup> year and final year BDS students may be posted.
6. All dental procedures as prescribed in DCI Curriculum (BDS Course Regulations 2007) shall be carried out in the clinics by students/ faculty members with appropriate protection.
7. Pre procedural mouth rinse with Povidone iodine should be used.
8. The patients should wear face masks during non working period e.g.
  - a) Recording of history.
  - b) Armamentarium to be arranged prior to starting of the procedure.
  - c) Local anaesthesia to act.
  - d) Post procedure instruction.
9. Donning and doffing of protective kits wherever required should be restricted to designated areas only.

10. Protective kits should be disposed of as per latest guidelines of bio medical waste management prescribed by the state pollution boards.
11. Maintenance of instrument sterilisation and disinfection should be stringently followed as per standard infection control protocols.
12. After every procedure the dental chair, unit and its associated water and pressure lines should be disinfected.
13. With respect to 3<sup>rd</sup> BDS teaching in subjects of General Medicine and General Surgery the guidelines of the National Medical Commission shall be applicable.

**Other Facilities:**

1. All the measures as prescribed in the UGC in its guidelines dated 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2020, shall also be followed by all the dental institutional before its opening at its hostel, library, parking, cafeteria, gym and other administrative areas should be complied as per UGC Guidelines
2. All students must bring a RT-PCR report that is negative at the time of re-joining the hostels.
3. Institutional level SOPs for safety of faculty, staff, students and patients shall be formulated, approved and implemented by Infection Control Committee (ICC) of the dental college. An emergency number, helpline number, email id and contact details of person to be contacted in case of any emergency should be circulated to all stake holders and prominently displayed at the entry to the campus.

*Notwithstanding anything contained in the above Guidelines, every dental college has to ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary advisories/guidelines/directions issued by the Central/State Government, Ministry of Education (earlier referred to as MHRD) or UGC from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.*



## Annexure -III

## 'DCI-Dental colleges – Tentative/Suggestive Schedule of Academic Program – (Post Pandemic Covid 19 Situation) and its duration including University Exam'.

S. No.	UG Batch Joining Academic Year	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	Internship	NEET-PG
1.	2016-17 (Internship batch)	--	--	--	--	January 2021 to December 2021 (12 months)	NEET PG December 2021
2.	2017-18 (4 <sup>th</sup> Year)	--	--	--	January 2021 to September 2021 (9 months)	October 2021 to September 2022 (12 months)	NEET PG - December 2022
3.	2018-19 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year)	--	--	January 2021 to September 2021 (9 months)	October 2021 to August 2022 (11 months)	September 2022 to August 2023 (12 months)	NEET PG - December 2023
4.	2019 – 20 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	--	January 2021 to August 2021 (8 months)	September 2021 to July 2022 (11 months)	August 2022 to July 2023 (12 months)	September 2023 to August 2024 (12 months)	NEET PG - December 2024
5.	2020 – 21 (1 <sup>st</sup> Year Ccvid – 19 batch)	January 2021 – September 2021 (9 months)	October 2021 to August 2022 (11 months)	September 2022 to July 2023 (11 months)	August 2023 to July 2024 (12 months)	September 2024 to August 2025 (12 months)	NEET PG –December 2025
6.	2021-2022 Onwards	October 2021 – September 2022 (12 months)	October 2022 to August 2023 (11 months)	September 2023 to August 2024 (11 months)	September 2024 to August 2025 (12 months)	October 2025 to September 2026 (12 months)	NEET PG –December 2026
7.	Further batches from AYs 2022-23	As per normal schedule/academic calendar as prescribed by the DCI/University					

**ADVISORY**

**Sub: Relaxations for submission of dissertation thesis by PG Students**

The Dental Council of India, after having carefully considered the requests of the students admitted during the Academic year 2019-2020, the unprecedented situation of COVID 19 pandemic and the training requirements of the MDS students, has decided as under:

1. The sub-clause 11 (3) (i) of Dental Council of India, Master of Dental Surgery Course Regulations, 2017 provides for submission of the Postgraduate dissertation/thesis within 6 months before appearing for the University examinations. In view of the COVID 19 pandemic the DCI has decided to relax the said portion of the regulation and allow the Postgraduate degree students of batches 2018-19 and 2019-20 only, to submit their thesis at least three months before the Theory and Clinical/Practical examination.
2. Further, in view of dearth of clinical material during current COVID 19 pandemic, the Universities and Dental colleges/institutions are also advised that while evaluating the thesis submitted for acceptance for the batches 2018-19 and 2019-20, final sample size actually analyzed may be considered even if it is less than the committed sample size in the approved thesis protocol for the study.