

Students won't be back in class in Unlock 4 but colleges are adapting to the new normal

From sensor taps in washrooms to social distancing in staff rooms, colleges prepare for the new normal



AS ONE ENTERS OUR COLLEGE, THEY WILL HAVE THEIR TEMPERATURE CHECKED AND HANDS SANITISED. SANITISERS WILL BE AT ALL WORK PLACES
 — Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College



Sensor taps in Maitreyi College washrooms
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While it has been more than five months since the colleges of Delhi University (DU) have been shut due to the pandemic, slowly, non-teaching staff members, principals, and a limited admin staff can be seen occasionally returning to colleges. According to the Unlock 4 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, colleges and educational institutions will continue to remain closed till September 30. Of course students are unlikely to throng the campus anytime soon, but the colleges are taking various measures to adapt to the new normal.

Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, shares, "As one enters our college, they have to get their temperature checked, sanitise their hands; we also have a disinfectant facility. While there are no students or teachers on the campus currently, for non-teaching staff, we have divided the roster in a way so that they need to come only thrice a week. On a given day, I don't have more than 35% of my non-teaching staff in college. Work areas are sprayed twice a day with disinfectant and thoroughly cleaned twice, and there is availability of alcohol-based sanitisers at all workspaces."

Haritma Chopra, Principal of Maitreyi College, says sanitisation is the key now. "In our college, we have made things touch-free as far as possible. For instance in washrooms, we have replaced all taps with sensor taps. Apart from temperature checks at the college entrance, it is mandatory for everyone to wear a mask. On Saturdays, sanitisation is done on a bigger scale. We have also minimised the use of air conditioners, but wherever we are using, we are ensuring that all doors in those areas are kept open," she says.

Simrit Kaur, Principal of Shri Ram College of Commerce adds, "We have changed the seating arrangement in the staff room to ensure social distancing. We now have an 'outbox and inbox' facility, so that nobody can enter the admin department directly. Anyone who visit the department will have to drop documents in the 'inbox' and can collect required documents from the 'outbox'. Teachers who do not have a laptop or adequate facilities to teach from home have been allotted about seven rooms with computers in the college. These rooms are sanitised when the teachers come."

Rama Sharma, Principal, Hans Raj College, shares that they have distributed masks to members of the staff. "We have sanitiser machines at different places in our college, masks are compulsory. We have also distributed masks to our staff and have also kept a few in the premises so that we can give to people who visit the college without a mask," she says.

OBE INVIGILATION ON WHATSAPP

Like most colleges, Maitreyi College also had a control room in place for Open Book Examinations for final year students. Haritma Chopra, Principal, says, "The colleges corresponded with students during OBE using email and WhatsApp groups. Post receiving question papers from university on their email, teachers on the group reminded them of the time left."

WE HAVE SANITISER MACHINES AT DIFFERENT PLACES IN OUR COLLEGE, MASKS ARE COMPULSORY. WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED MASKS TO OUR STAFF AS WELL
 — Rama Sharma, Principal, Hans Raj College



Apart from mandatory masks, regular sanitisation is the key, says Haritma Chopra, Principal of Maitreyi College