

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Lockdown Period

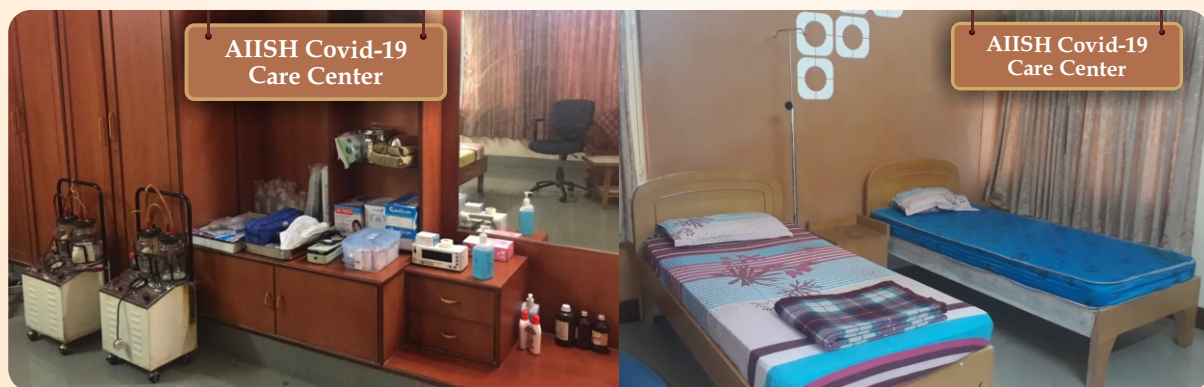
In line with the nation-wide lockdown to curb the community spread of COVID 19 from 25th March to 31st May 2020, the Institute suspended all its face-to-face engagements, and instead harnessed the online platforms to perform its activities and offer services. This way, the organization was able to continue the academic activities including regular classes, research, clinical evaluation, therapy, rehabilitation services, and preschool education without much hindrance. Moreover, the lockdown period was gainfully used for developing a number of multimedia information resources useful for professional and public education on communication disorders.

Covid-19 Day Care Centre

A Covid-19 Day Care Centre was set up at the main campus guest house to provide emergency support for corona positive cases among the staff and students. The centre had all the clinical support facilities including oxygen cylinders.

Isolation Center

Rent-free accommodation and free food were provided for corona positive cases and primary contacts among the staff and students at the Institute guest house.



Tele-assessment and rehabilitation

The Institute launched more than 10 WhatsApp groups for various speech and hearing disorder therapies and the therapists had been in continuous touch with those in need of assistance. Through video conference, experts managed to provide services,

including therapy, to more than 150 people in 700 sessions. In addition, the Tele-Centre for Persons with Communication Disorders of the Institute continued its routine tele-assessment and intervention.

Online classes

In response to the National COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, the Institute moved quickly to online teaching and assessment. The regular classes of all the academic programmes run by the Institute were shifted to online mode and faculty members engaged classes from home throughout the lockdown period.

Counselling for the students

The students held-up in the Institute hostels during the lockdown period were provided with psychological support and counselling.

Development of public education videos

The lockdown period was gainfully used for developing public education videos and pamphlets on the prevention and management of communication disorders with the support of faculty and clinical staff. Those materials were disseminated through the Institute's social media platforms.

Hearing aid maintenance and repair

The in-house repair and servicing of the hearing aids were continued during the lockdown period. The defective hearing aids were received and sent back after repairing and servicing by post. Also, the spares and associated parts like cells of the hearing aids were sent by post to the needy persons.

Online troubleshooting of hearing aids

The Department of Electronics carried out trouble shooting of the hearing aids through video call by narrating how to fix the issues and how to handle home repair. Also, the experts of the Institute prepared videos on preventive maintenance of different types of hearing aids and uploaded on social media platforms.

Post-Lockdown Period

Standard Operating Procedure

With the objective of containing and preventing the Covid-19 after the lockdown period, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed and implemented at the Institute in-line with the guidelines of the state and central governments. A committee was constituted in this regard under Dr. Sundar Raju, Dean and Professor in ENT. The

Institute activities including clinical care were monitored according to the standard operating procedure. Meeting of the SOP committee was conducted regularly to take stock of the situation and to device necessary precaution to prevent the pandemic.

Clinical Services

The outpatient services were resumed on 18th May 2020 strictly following the Covid-19 protocols. Safety of the staff and students posted for clinical care was ensured by supplying enough quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, masks, gloves and sanitizer. Also, six multi-tasking staff were deputed exclusively for sanitization of the Institute premises. All the clinical services including Audiology, ENT and Psychology were made available under one roof to avoid movements of clients across the departments. Also, the Institute extended its assessment and therapeutic services to Saturdays from December 2020 to February 2021.

Education and Training

The regular classes were resumed by following the Govt. of India and the University of Mysore guidance on Covid19 preventive measures. The measures include social distancing in classrooms, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning and isolation of symptomatic students.

