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TIBETAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Patron : H.H. The Dalai Lama

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From: President, TCV Head Office
Subject: COVID-19 Pandemic – 2nd wave affects TCV
Date: 20th May, 2021

Dear sponsors and friends,

As the COVID-19 pandemic situation in India was improving for the better around middle of February 2021, the Government announced opening of schools in the country. With this, our children started returning to our schools in a phased-out manner, undergoing 14 days of quarantine in the respective campus. Thereafter, we were able to start normal classes from 15th March for about 10 days before this horrifying 2nd wave pandemic hit India from mid-April and once again, the State Government announced lockdown and with this, schools are to continue to remain closed until 31st May and our children are remaining in their respective homes and hostels within the campus.

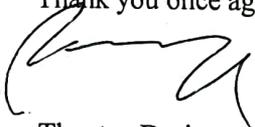
At the moment, India is recording a daily surge of 2-3 hundred thousand new positive cases and nearly 4,000 people succumbing to this disease. Within the Tibetan community in India, around 4,000 Tibetans in all parts of the country have also been infected, which includes our schools and other Tibetan schools. Until the 2nd wave, except for Ladakh, other TCV schools because of our precautionary measures had no cases. Our schools as informed earlier were in safe and sound condition. However, in spite of our best efforts, this 2nd wave had also entered into some of our campuses and we could not remain immune to this widespread.

Because of the widespread in the whole of Dharamshala and the district, Upper TCV was the worst hit among our schools. Rapid testing of suspected cases followed by thorough contact tracing resulted in detection of around 167 positive cases, who are now in total quarantine so that further spread of the disease is curbed. Although the number is of concern to us but at the moment, except for mild symptoms like cough and running noses, we have no severe cases. The doctors from the Tibetan Delek Hospital and our own nurses are doing the daily check up and medication and special diets are being provided to the patients to improve their immune system. The other branch hit was our Youth Hostel in Bangalore where over 53 college-going students were infected, of which 50 have fully recovered and 3 are still in quarantine. In TCV Bylakuppe, we have 26 positive cases detected and they are well taken care of on campus. In other branches, we have no cases so far and all are well and sound.

Donations towards the "TCV Covid Relief Fund" have come from many of our sponsors, friends and TCV Alumni globally and I take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks to all. With these donations we are able to allocate funds to all our branches to purchase medical equipment, PPE sets and medications needed thus far in safeguarding the children.

With increase in contact tracing and testing capacity, we fear that the number may continue to spike, particularly in Upper TCV and TCV Bylakuppe. Foreseeing the situation in the times ahead, we will continue to need your support in our efforts to combat the pandemic. Through this update, we aim to bring attention and highlight the urgent need of monetary support to help meet the overwhelming requirements in terms of PPE, medical devices and medications in all our branches.

Thank you once again! Tashi Delek!


Thupten Dorjee



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