



Preamble

Arrupe Jesuit University (AJU) is monitoring the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation closely and carefully. We take the health and well-being of all Arrupeans seriously, since these are at the core of our call to demonstrate *cura personalis*. In this regard, we need the following safety measures that are immediate and can help us to make informed decisions about how to survive this pandemic. This policy response comes at the end of consultations, reflections and deliberations on the communications and information available publicly from the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference (ZCBC), Ministry of Health and Childcare, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, directives from the Rector of the Jesuit community, and a sensitization session given the University community by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The scope of this policy is **every member of the AJU community**, with necessary adjustments made by various groups and individuals only to enhance the spirit of the document. The nature of the policy is **binding** in the discretion of the Administration to sanction any breach.

Policy – Proactive Prevention and Containment

1. Information

- 1.1. According to multiple websites dealing with public health, human coronaviruses are common throughout the world and usually cause mild to moderate illness in people. The COVID-19 virus is new and scientists do not yet understand the complete nature of this virus. Up until March 11 when the coronavirus was declared a pandemic, the World Health Organization noted that there were about 126,000 cases worldwide. However, by March 22, the cases worldwide had surpassed 337,000. In other words, new cases are emerging exponentially, and **fatalities** are increasing.
- 1.2. The new coronavirus is a global and public health concern and we are unable to predict when the pandemic will be over.
- 1.3. There are lots of unknown facts about COVID-19, but we know the following to be among its symptoms: Fever (38 degrees Celsius), shortness of breath, runny nose, dry cough, sore throat, and general fatigue.
- 1.4. Preparedness and response will require everyone to educate him/herself on the symptoms of COVID-19 in the individual. Go through the ministry of health website for guidance or visit the WHO website for correct information about symptoms.
- 1.5. Filter your sources of information about the virus. Avoid conspiracy theories and extreme news bubbles and diligently seek facts on what is happening today and what are the guidelines.
- 1.6. We are reminded that crises are only political until they are personal; hence, we are invited to avoid making the COVID-19 situation a political talking point.
- 1.7. **Ministry of Health Hotlines** on COVID-19: Mobile numbers: 0714734593 and 0774112531.
- 1.8. Take time to **read** the various posters on offer, from the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health.

2. Hygiene

- 2.1.Nothing beats washing of hands, i.e. frequent and proper handwashing, accompanied by cleanliness and general hygiene. Washing of hands is compulsory for anyone entering the premises of AJU at all times.
- 2.2.Either sanitizer or water/soap shall be placed in the following public places: entrances to the main chapel, multipurpose hall, kitchen, staff rooms, students lounge, library, lecture rooms, seminar rooms, Rutendo, library, computer labs, administration block, and the Rector's office. These sanitizers and water/soap will also be available at both gates.
- 2.3.The use of hand-sanitizer should always be a last resort; and use hand sanitizer that has at least 70% alcohol. Hand sanitization tools at the entrances of these common places are to remain where they are placed.
- 2.4.There will be posters showing the places to wash hands and also the proper way to wash hands.
- 2.5.The University will carry out periodic disinfection procedures in classrooms and bathrooms and clinic and administrative block and other areas of the campus. Such procedures will include disinfection of floors of rooms, (toilets floors, kitchen) as well as surfaces that are frequently touched by people such as doorknobs, hand-rails, etc.
- 2.6.ALL AJU vehicles will have hand sanitizers and users are required to disinfect the steering and inside surfaces regularly.
- 2.7.A temperature gun and masks will be acquired. The temperature gun will be used at the main gate to measure the temperatures of all those entering the premises, and therefore guide the decision on whether the person will be allowed into the campus. The mask is to be used when someone has the symptoms – like persistent cough, fever - even if he/she is not a confirmed case of COVID-19.

3. Human Interaction

- 3.1.When you visit a space where an infected person is identified, you need to consider self-quarantine for **fourteen days**.
- 3.2.An isolation facility and referral hospital have been identified. The Mtima cottage will serve as the isolation facility for residents of the University (equipped and managed according to advice from WHO). Protocols to follow when one feels the symptoms:
 - 3.2.1. the individual is required to first call the Assistant Minister for Health, Mr Luis Matope, SJ (mobile number 0733586430), or the School Nurse (Sr Faith (mobile number 0773404326) as first responders.
 - 3.2.2. To aid these two, if necessary, Dr Edward Chagunda will be contacted
 - 3.2.3. In the event that hospital services are needed, the number to call for Wilkins Infectious Diseases Hospital is (landline: 0242740433)
 - 3.2.4. The medical personnel at Richartz House are available to serve as backup in the event of emergency services.
- 3.3.Self-isolation: ALL who have come in contact with those identified as infected are asked to self-isolate at home, even if they have no symptoms or are only mildly ill.

The Zimbabwe Centre for Disease Control recommends that on self-isolation, you use a separate bathroom, wear a face mask when around others, and don't share household utensils and items.

- 3.4. Both the person identified as possibly infected and individuals in close proximity should keep the social distance of at least two metres (or 6 feet).
- 3.5. Common spaces must be kept well-ventilated and receiving as much sunlight as possible.
- 3.6. ALL Arrupeans must desist from handshakes, hugs, pecks, and other close contacts with the other.
- 3.7. Social distancing, that is, keeping six feet apart from other people when out and about, should be observed.
- 3.8. Group sporting activities that involve bodily contact are suspended, even as exercise is strongly encouraged.
- 3.9. All Wednesday Masses and our Friday Way of the Cross are cancelled until further notice.
- 3.10. All Jesuits in formation are to limit their attendance of daily Masses to the small communities, and to the main chapel on Sundays. Fr. Roland von Nidda, SJ, shall coordinate celebrants of the Sunday Masses here. NO visitors.
- 3.11. Transparency about destinations is encouraged in order to account for possible exposure to the virus.
- 3.12. ALL non-essential local and international travels and visits are to be postponed.
- 3.13. NO visits are to be undertaken by or to persons with flu-like symptoms.

4. Immediate Specific Measures

- 4.1. Monday (March 23) is the last day of teaching.
- 4.2. Our campus will be closed after this date. By closure, we mean there will be no in-person lectures here at AJU. However, learning and instruction will continue **online**. In view of this, for the first week (starting March 24 to March 29), ALL STUDENTS are required to stay away from the campus: they are to use this period to work on the assignments they have received.
- 4.3. From March 30, online classes will begin. Meanwhile, from 24 -29 March, lecturers will be helped by the IT department to prepare, record, and upload online classes. Thus far, teachers will continue to teach their classes, but in packages; students will give and receive feedback online.
- 4.4. After the initiation into uploading online packages for teaching, teaching-staff will report to work as and when they will receive instruction from the PVC-Academics. Communications will be reviewed as the situation evolves.
- 4.5. Non-teaching staff do not have to report daily, after March 29, nor stay for the full length of the day. Specific instructions will be communicated by their line-managers. Communications will be reviewed as the situation evolves.
- 4.6. To foster the objective of the closure, students are expected to stay at home and **attend their online lectures**. Anyone who may need to come into campus would need some written authorization from the PVC- Academics/Dean of Students. Likewise, the IT department of the University will provide some guidelines on how students can create study-groups over the internet.
- 4.7. Students are requested to email to deanofstudents@aju.ac.zw two (WhatsApp) numbers: i.e. a personal number and the number of next of kin/guardian (include

- the name). This is to enable the University to check on your wellbeing and to send any new information about AJU response to the pandemic.
- 4.8. ALL Arrupeans must constantly **check their emails** for official communication, since these actions are subject to periodic review, depending on how the situation evolves.
 - 4.9. Students are strongly advised to create their own **dedicated virtual workspaces**; teachers are expected to clearly communicate when their online lectures will be taught to students.
 - 4.10. Students must remain open to alternative **modes of examination** depending on how the situation will evolve, including but not limited to: written scripts, submitted long papers, etc. A further communication will be issued in due time.
 - 4.11. Priests who go to assist with masses in surrounding institutions and parishes should take all precautions, and follow guidelines given by the Catholic Archdiocese of Harare, to prevent possible contracting of the virus.
 - 4.12. All apostolates are hereby suspended until further notice. In terms of giving retreats -- especially the ongoing retreat in daily life (one to one) -- there is need to exercise prudence and discretion compliant with guidelines on social-distancing. Non-physical contact (e.g. by WhatsApp, in as far as this is admissible in terms of confidentiality and data protection) is preferable.

Postscript:

Each of us individually and all of us collectively must observe these precautions, change our behaviour to comply, educate those we live with, and pray hard that this crisis may pass.

◆ This policy has been researched, sourced, compiled and drafted by the COVID-19 ad hoc Committee. We are grateful to Dr Stephen Nzyoki, SJ, Fr Chuks Mueme, SJ, and a team of students: Norbert Rwodzi, SJ, Victor Mureithi, SJ, Karen Chiedza, and Eric Chikanya, SJ. We are grateful for their tireless work, amid all the other pressures of their various responsibilities.