

GNLU postpones culfest, declares holidays till Feb 27

Varsity claims no swine flu case has been reported from campus, but postpones three-day Pentagram which was to begin today as a precautionary measure. Around 2,000 students from across country were expected to attend event

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Swine-flu scare gripped Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), forcing it to indefinitely postpone its three-day annual cultural event Pentagram, which was to begin today. The varsity also announced holidays till February 27 after the student body urged them to do so. Sources said, a few students from the campus had taken ill, but none of them tested positive for swine flu. Authorities told *Mirror* that decision to postpone Pentagram was taken as a precautionary measure, considering that apart from 800 students of the varsity, about 2,000 others from NID, NIFT, PDP, IIMA and other national law universities were expected to attend the event. They confirmed that though there were cases of viral fever and common cold on campus, nobody has tested positive for swine flu. Students from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka study here.

On Thursday, outstation students of GNLU were seen leaving the campus, carrying their backpacks. "We are disappointed that the event has been postponed. But the varsity has taken the right step. There is a massive outbreak of swine flu in Gujarat and doctors have been advising people to avoid crowded places. So, it is better not to conduct the event right now," said Darshan Patel, 22, a B Com-LLB student from Ahmedabad.

As part of precautionary measures, the varsity distributed Tamiflu among the staff and the students, and issued swine-flu guidelines, said sources. It has also included *kaadha*, a concoction of herbs and spices, believed to boost immunity, in its canteen menu.

Priyanka Divakar, 20, a student of sixth semester B Com-LLB, said, "We received a mail from the director informing us about the holidays till February 27."

Sunandini Singh, 21, a fourth year BA LLB student, was happy to leave for home in Vadodara. "It is a good decision, considering new flu cases are being registered every day. My parents are relieved a bit."

Meera Dubey, 19, a student of



Outstation students of GNLU left the campus on Thursday after the varsity declared holidays till February 27

NIFT CANCELS EVENT

MEANWHILE, Nift Gandhinagar, which is located near GNLU campus, cancelled its two-day event Spectrum, which was to begin today. Arindam Das, the director, said, "The event has been cancelled due to technical issues." Further, the committee handling the event posted on Facebook that the event was cancelled due to administrative issues. Das said that no case of swine flu has been reported on campus. "We have issued health guidelines to students and taken all necessary precautions," he said.

first year BSc LLB, said, "It is my first year at GNLU. I was so excited about this event, particularly the performance by Indian Ocean band. I am disappointed. But yes, I will get to meet my parents."

Varsity's placement coordinator Nisha Trivedi said, "A couple of students had taken the swine flu test, but I can assure you that the reports were negative. We decided to put our annual event on hold because we do not want to put anyone in harm's way. We thought it was the right thing to do as about 800 of our students and 2,000 others from across the country and abroad were to attend the three-day fest."



Priyanka Divakar, Priya Das and Shubhangi Khandelwal left the campus

Dr Richa Sharma, dean of student's welfare department, said, "We have a doctor on campus and a nurse, too. We have distributed Tamiflu to our students and staff. A mail has been sent out by the director, registrar and me to the students, informing them about the dos and don'ts to guard themselves against H1N1."

The core committee handling Pentagram announced the postponement of the event for an indefinite period on FB. "Dear participants, friends and other enthusiasts, our sincere apologies to bring you this news that your very own fest has been postponed for an indefinite period due to widespread swine flu disease across state. Since, Gujarat stands second with the most number of cases swine flu,

and your safety is of prime concern to us, we have decided to take this step as a precaution."

PREMIER INSTITUTES VIGILANT

Institutes like MICA, NID and Cept University, confirmed that no case of swine flu has been reported from their campuses. The authorities said that they have advised their students and staff to take necessary health measures. NID Registrar Vijaya Deshmukh said, "So far, no swine flu case has been reported at NID. We have asked students to inform the wardens if they show symptoms like fever, cough and sore throat. A list of dos and don'ts has also been mailed to them." Similarly, CEPT University has also issued list of instructions to its students and report to in-house doctor

PICS: MANISH MISTRY



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MEERA DUBEY, FY, BSC, LLB

if they show any flu-like symptoms. An email sent out by Mica to its students and staff reads, "All employees who are suspected or diagnosed to be carrying the virus by their doctors are requested to stay at home and take necessary treatment so that they can recover better and help prevent further spread of the flu. Kindly keep HR and your superiors informed. Students, MCSA, Junior MCSA, please take necessary caution and precaution."

IIMA's Chief Administrative Officer Manoj Bhatt, said, "We have an ambulance stationed on campus. Fumigation is done on a regular basis. We have an in-house doctor, too. All necessary precautions are being taken to protect students and staff."