

Latika Roy Foundation's Response to COVID-19

Among the most vulnerable to the devastating public health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19 are disabled children, whose survival, development, learning and protection are on the line like never before. The frequent closures and lockdowns, while unavoidable in the prevailing circumstances, have disrupted their lives and the lives of their families. Anxiety is high and misinformation rife. The strain of social distancing, having to care of oneself and one's family, which includes a disabled child, without any support or respite while also possibly dealing with economic setbacks, has taken a mental and physical toll. But our vision is of a better world for children with disabilities and what better time than the present to pull out all the stops to ensure they remain safe and well?

The Latika Roy Foundation's priorities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 include the following:

- **Sharing important public health information:** We will keep our community updated on the facts about the pandemic, and helping them access available resources and practice safety and prevention measures.
- **Supporting the education and therapy of our children, and well-being of their entire families:** Our team of special educators, therapists, social worker and counsellor will remain in close contact with our community over the phone, WhatsApp groups and video calls to ask, listen, suggest, advise and counsel.
- **Reaching out to the wider community:** A key modification to our services is that now that we're no longer constrained by space and infrastructure limitations, we're finding new ways to serve a wider audience than we did in the past. This includes making ourselves available to anyone with a disabled child, registered at our centers or not.
- **Extending nutrition and medical aid:** Most of our children are from low-income families whose incomes have been hard hit since the pandemic began. Our team has been distributing dry rations and medicines to those most in need.

Let's bear in mind that we're not unfamiliar with adversity. Our children are champions at overcoming obstacles at almost every step of the way. Their families are no strangers to navigating speed bumps, dead ends and no-way signs. We've walked together for a quarter of a century, learning from each other, listening and being there. COVID-19 will not change that.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Social Worker from Monday to Friday, time 9 to 4 pm at 8439000110.

We're going to emerge from this together.

Wishing you good health and safety,

The LRF Team