



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When the lockdown was announced there was a lot of uncertainty about how the Vellore Good Samaritan Canteen would function. My staff had many apprehensions. They were afraid of taking the infection to their homes. Dr. Siby, our Secretary, talked to us about how to move forward. He said that we are an essential support for the patients and staff. He reassured us that we can be safe if we carefully follow protocols. My staff realised that our work is a vital support service for CMC Vellore.



My team has risen up to the challenges. I am very grateful and have a newfound respect for each one.
Ms. Jhenefer

These are the ways we have adapted and changed our work flow:

- We all wore masks and would wash our hands every half hour
- Our suppliers would bring the food and leave it outside. We washed everything before bringing it inside the kitchen.
- Only parcel service was allowed. This meant we needed a lot of packing materials and manpower. But we did not have to wash plates!
- The canteen area was rearranged so that people could keep physical distancing norms while queuing at the cash and parcel counters. Masks were compulsory for everyone entering the canteen.
- Our canteen outlets were closed and so we delivered food within the entire hospital and staff residences. **We supplied food for stranded patients under the Manna Meals Scheme. We catered to the doctors working in the COVID-19 wards.**

This season has been difficult for all of us. We need patience to face the pandemic. We are all facing problems and inconveniences. Sometimes people have been rude or impatient with my staff. But our teams are working hard despite all the risks. **Please have a little patience, it will go a long way in helping us deal with the challenge of Covid-19.**