

8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## The Limited Reopening of Gurdwaras for Individual Prayer

*Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh*

Sikh Assembly welcomes the announcement by the Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick yesterday for the tentative easing of lockdown measures for Gurdwaras for individual prayer/ Darshan in line with social distancing guidelines, from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

However, religious services such as Kirtan Diwaans or Anand Karaj Ceremonies will not be possible at this stage, this is the first step towards places of worship opening fully by 4<sup>th</sup> July, if it is safe to do so.

The Sangat in attendance must remain attentive to the safety measures and guidelines at their Gurdwara (e.g. social distancing, regular washing hands, routeing, etc). It is essential that the Gurdwara management use Government advice to produce easy to understand guidelines and signage, specific to their Gurughar, for the safety of the Sangat.

The Gurdwara management is encouraged to avail themselves to local Government services such as dial-a-ride to ensure that the elderly who have suffered disproportionately from not being able to attend Gurdwaras can do so safely.

It is also vital for families to remind their elders, over 70, or those with severe medical conditions to remain shielded.

Sikh Assembly always prioritises the safety and welfare of the Sangat. We continue to engage in constructive dialogue in the interests of the Sikh community, with the Government, to assist in the future easing of measures to reopen Gurdwaras as soon as possible and to ensure this is done safely.

**Community Resource Team**  
**Sikh Assembly**