

Covid-19 Guidance for Sikhs and Sikh Places of Worship

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh

As the global community continues the battle to contain the threat of the Covid-19 virus, it is becoming ever clearer that individual and collective responsibility is ultimately the determining factor in managing the wellbeing of society.

Sikh Assembly is mindful and appreciative of the effort made by so many communities, including our Sikh Gurdwaras, healthcare workers and Seva teams who geared up to support all those left vulnerable to physical and mental pressures in truly unprecedented times. Governments across the world have a responsibility for the protection and safeguarding of their communities but must also balance the uncertainty and potential impact upon their respective economies. In the absence of a vaccine or cure, the current solution to immediate health and safety is found by adherence to the social distancing by individuals or groups gathering together.

SA wish to keep you informed of the latest revision of government instructions aimed at stemming the rise in infection rates across the UK with the acceptance of the reality in mind. We are confident that the UK Sikh community will receive and continue to implement the latest government instructions in a pragmatic and exemplary manner. We are sharing the essential updated guidelines we believe will affect Sikhs and Sikh Places of Worship specifically **from 14th September 2020**.

Please take note:

- Social gatherings away from the Gurdwara are to be restricted to single groups of up to six (6) people maximum.
- Places of Worship where competent risk assessments have been carried out: where food, hygiene, wash facilities and internal navigation procedures have been adapted and successfully implemented to accommodate the existing guidelines, may continue to welcome worshippers, whilst keeping groups of no more than six (6) apart via social distancing between groups of families.
- Weddings, funerals, and cycle of life events remain restricted to 30 people. It is the collective responsibility of the Gurdwara Management Committee's and Sangat (congregation) to maintain the integrity of family groups being of no more than six (6) and to ensure social distancing between all individual 'bubbles' of six (6) people.

The Government has not yet decided if children should be included in the group of six (6) individuals, or whether further restrictions are necessary.

Sikh Assembly urges and encourages the Sangat to remain vigilant of changes to Government guidelines as and when they are issued. The latest guidelines are due to be published very soon, and SA shall endeavour to keep the Sangat informed at the earliest opportunity.

Community Resources Team
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