



KHALSA DHARMAK SABHA

18 Niven Road, Singapore 228365

Telephone : +65 6338 0731 Fax: +65 6339 3060

Dear Sadh Sanggat Ji.

14 Mar 2020

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Its been some time now since we've been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Management Committee of Khalsa Dharmak Sabha (KDS) has been monitoring the developments and has actively taken steps to create a safe environment at the Gurdwara for the sanggat. As of now, to minimise large gatherings at KDS, we have cancelled or postponed our signature programs during this period. In addition, for our day to day congregation, we have instituted several measures to contain the spread of the virus.

Firstly, we are getting everyone to wash their hands with soap at the entrance of the Gurdwara. Secondly, we are screening the temperatures of everyone before allowing them to enter. Anyone with a temp of 38 deg C or above and/or are exhibiting respiratory symptoms, will be asked to go to the doctor instead of entering the Gurdwara. Thirdly, serving of Dheg is done with hands washed and mouths covered. Fourthly, all preparation and serving of the langgar is done with mouths covered or with masks and gloves on. Fifth, cleaning of the langgar tables and backs of chairs, together with other commonly touched areas, is being done 3 times a day. Finally, we've been reminding our sanggat not to come to the Gurdwara if they are feeling unwell or are exhibiting respiratory symptoms.

With COVID-19 continuing its spread in Singapore, the Management Committee has decided to introduce additional measures to increase social distancing amongst the sanggat. With immediate effect, we will introduce the following additional measures:

(1) We will urge and encourage our sanggat to seat at least a metre apart from each other when in the Darbar hall. Gianiji and our Ragis will make periodic announcements for the sanggat to seat as such.

(2) In the langgar hall, we have reconfigured the tables arrangement such that the sanggat is not facing each other in close proximity when eating. We have also spaced out the chairs to about a metre apart. Please avoid the tendency to slot in extra seats or bring the seats closer to each other as this would defeat the purpose of creating that social distance.



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(3) To handle the excess crowd and minimize crowding at the langgar hall, we have set-up the 2nd level hall with it's own langgar serving point and with tables & chairs arranged just like in the langgar hall. Overall, the seating capacity in each hall will be reduced. Hence, we urge everyone to consume your langgar quickly and free up your seat for the next person.

(4) To encourage better flow of the sanggat, we will start the lunch langgar earlier, as soon as the food is ready basically.

(5) From 16 Mar 2020 onwards, langgar will be simplified to Dhal, Chawl and Cha during the weekdays and Dheg, Channay and Cha for the weekends. In addition, disposable plates, cups and spoons will be used. This langgar will be instituted even for the booked programs.

Overall, these measures will further reduce the risk of contagion. There is no handbook to guide us on how best to respond to it. But we will modulate our responses in ways that will protect our health and safety. Everyone needs to play their part in curbing the spread of the virus. We need to be socially responsible to not come to the Gurdwara if we are feeling unwell, or have have been in close contact with an infected person or even someone who is being tested for the infection. Given that the elderly are more susceptible to complications if they contract the virus, we can take some extra precautions by looking out for seniors with respiratory symptoms and advising seniors who feel unwell to see a doctor and to stay at home. For healthy seniors, we can remind them to continue to maintain good personal hygiene such as washing their hands frequently and avoiding touching their face and eyes. We all must continue to be socially responsible, practice social distancing and take precautions to limit the contagion.

COVID-19 is likely to stay for quite some time, so we all need to learn how to cope with it. The management is committed to undertaking additional steps and measures where needed to ensure a safe environment at KDS. Your wellbeing will always be our priority. Let us stay calm and united in dealing with the pandemic. With Guruji's Kirpa, I am confident that we can get through this challenging period together.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Sarbjit Singh

President, Khalsa Dharmak Sabha