



KHALSA DHARMAK SABHA

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Dear Sadh Sangat Ji.

24 Aug 2020

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

While we have been allowed to resume congregational services at Khalsa Dharmak Sabha, kirtan with the sangat present has still not been allowed. We have been engaging the authorities with some options to enable kirtan with the sangat present, but with no success. We were hoping that with the reduction in local COVID-19 cases, the restrictions on our Gurdwara activities would be relaxed and we would be able to resume our congregational services with kirtan. However, based on the latest advisory released on 18 Aug 2020, kirtan with the sangat present is still not allowed, unless it is done in a separate room.

Hence, the Management Committee has taken a decision to build a separate room around the stage where our Ragis do their kirtan. We will use glass panes for the walls so as to enable the sangat to see our Ragis doing their kirtan. We plan to get that done by this week so that we can start our usual Sunday programs as soon as possible.

Once the room is in place and we resume our Sunday programs, the total number of worshipers allowed at any one time, however, remains at 50 still (excluding religious and supporting workers). Hence, we will not be able to have our sangat sit through the entire program as per in the past. We encourage you to enjoy the kirtan for 15 mins or so and leave so that another person can come in. We will live-stream the proceedings of Sunday programs so that you can still be part of the congregation through virtual means.

Once we start our Sunday programs, we expect a larger presence of sangat at the gurdwara. So, to manage the crowd such that there are only 50 worshippers present at a time, we have made some configuration changes:

- (1) Individual carpets pieces have been placed, spaced out at the Darbar hall. The back benches have also been marked out. These are good visual cues for you to know the capacity available in the Darbar hall. If you see a spot available, you may sit. Otherwise, please just metha thek and leave the Darbar hall.
- (2) The shoes area has been rearranged and queue stands have been put up to direct the flow. Please abide by the flow dictated and not take "short-cuts" so that accounting and social distancing can be maintained.
- (3) To speed-up the flow during check-in, an open WiFi connection will be made available for our sangat who do not have any data plan so that they can use the SafeEntry app for check-in rather than filling up their details in the forms which can be time consuming.
- (4) To enable a better flow, the temperature taking and manual check-in area has been separated from the dheg area.



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- (5) There will be sewadars present at various points to manage the flow, check-in, and presence at the Darbar hall. Please give them your fullest cooperation. During the peak periods, on Sundays or other Jord Mela days, usually from 9am to 1pm, we will need at least 8 sewadars at a time to manage the crowd. Volunteers will be needed. If you are available, please approach our Secretary or Gianiji who will roster you accordingly.

To ensure safe management, all the previously announced restrictions/measures will remain in place. I would like to reiterate the following:

- (1) All persons present must wear a face mask at all times.
- (2) There should be no mingling amongst the sanggat, before, during or after each worship service. Sanggat is to leave immediately after performing their worship.
- (3) There should be no sharing of prayer and other common items (e.g. gutkha) as this increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Sanggat is to bring along their own instead, if required.
- (4) There will still be NO langar consumption at the gurdwara for the visiting sanggat. The ongoing langar preparation for collection and takeaway will continue as per the following timings:
 - (a) 0700 - 0900, (b) 1130 - 1330, and (c) 1900 - 2000.

As we open up to enable the sanggat to come together to enjoy our congregational worship, it is important that we all do our part to ensure the safety of each and every one present. It is key that we all follow the rules and regulations laid out. If you notice areas of improvement, please feedback to the management committee and we will look into the issue. If you see activities happening that are in contradiction to the regulations, instead of just complaining to the Management Committee, please take ownership and step-up to inform the persons involved. Sometimes it's just a simple slipup, that once highlighted, the person involved will correct it immediately. While unfortunate, we have noticed the presence of members who are policing the place and looking for reasons to complain and even cause the gurdwara to shut down. Let's not give them any reason to do so.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Sarbjit Singh
President, Khalsa Dharmak Sabha