



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE, HAJ AND WAQF

No. MWD 52 WES 2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat
Vikas Soudha
Bengaluru, Dated 06-06-2020

- Ref: 1) Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-1(A), dated: 30.05.2020
of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
2) Official Memorandum No.F. No.Z.28015/19/2020-EMR
(Pt), dtd:04-06-2020 of Government of India, Ministry of
Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

In pursuance to the order referred at (1) above by Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs and Government of Karnataka has extended the lockdown in containment zones up to 30.06.2020 and to re-open prohibited activities in a phased manner in areas outside containment zones, in phase I the religious places/places of worship for public will be allowed with the stipulation of standard operating procedures. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi in the Official Memorandum referred at (2) above has issued SOP on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 in religious places which are applicable w.e.f. 08-06-2020.

Guidelines for Religious places/places of worship in the context of COVID-19

The following guidelines are issued by government of Karnataka for Religious places/places of worship.

General guidelines

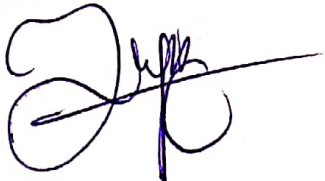
- The Religious places/places of worship in containment zones shall remain closed till the zone is denotified. Only those outside containment zones are allowed to open-up.
- Persons above 60 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below 10 years are advised to stay at home.
- The preventive measures include simple public health measures that are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all persons in these places at all times.

These include:

1. Large gatherings/congregation continues to remain prohibited.
2. Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 2 meters (6 feet) at all times.
3. Specific markings on the floor (square/circle) shall be made to manage the queue and

ensure physical distancing of 2 meters (6 feet) in the premises.

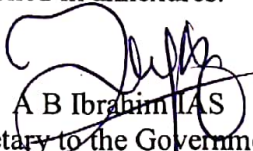
4. Use of face masks shall be mandatory.
5. Entry of visitors shall be staggered to avoid crowding.
6. Cough etiquette to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly in closed bins.
7. A trained volunteer shall perform thermal scanning at entry. Persons having temperature of $\geq 37.5^{\circ}$ C or $\geq 99.5^{\circ}$ F or symptoms of cough, cold, throat pain and difficulty in breathing shall not be allowed inside and advised to seek medical consultation, call Helpline 14410 (Apthamitra).
8. Posters/standees on preventive measures about COVID-19 shall be displayed prominently. Audio and Video clips to spread awareness on preventive measures for COVID-19 shall be regularly played.
9. Provision shall be made for hand washing with liquid soap and water. Hand sanitizers shall be made available at entrance and appropriate places.
10. Preferably separate entry and exits for visitors shall be organized.
11. Proper crowd management in the parking slots and outside the premises shall be duly followed to maintain physical distancing.
12. Any shops, stalls, cafeteria etc., outside and within the premises shall follow physical distancing norms at all times. Hand sanitizers shall be made available.
13. Seating arrangement to be made in such a way that adequate physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) is maintained.
14. Touching of statues/idols / holy books etc, shall not to be allowed.
15. In view of potential threat of spread of infection, as far as possible, recorded devotional music/songs may be played and choir or group singing shall not be allowed.
16. Avoid physical contact while greeting each other.
17. Common prayer mats shall be avoided and devotees shall bring their own prayer mat or piece of cloth which they shall take back with them.
18. Physical offerings like Prasad/distribution or sprinkling of holy water, etc. shall not be allowed inside the religious place.
19. Community kitchens/langars / "Ann-daan", etc. at religious places shall strictly follow physical distancing norms of 2 meters (6 feet) while cooking and serving freshly prepared food.
20. Good sanitation shall be maintained within the premises including hand & foot-



washing stations/areas and toilets.

21. Frequent cleaning and disinfection of all the areas shall be done by the management of the religious place.
22. Proper disposal of face covers / masks / gloves left over by visitors and/or employees shall be ensured.
23. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.
24. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu app shall be advised to all.
25. All religious institutions will be given a checklist on follow up of guidelines, it shall filled up by the religious institution and submit concerned to district authorities.
26. All persons on returning from religious places shall wash their hands and feet before entering their homes; also avoid close contact with the elders at home.
27. Use of mobile phones and any video recordings shall be avoided inside and within the premises.
28. In case of a suspect or confirmed case in the premises:
 - a. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
 - b. Provide a face mask till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
 - c. Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/fever clinic) or dial 14410 (Apthamitra helpline).
 - d. A risk assessment will be undertaken by the district health authority and accordingly further action is initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
 - e. Through disinfection of the premises by 1% sodium hypochlorite solution to be taken.

The specific guidelines annexed to this order are required to be followed strictly in religious places/places of worship in order to save the lives of citizens and to prevent the possibility of spreading the Corona Virus to the fellow Citizens. Any violation of these Guidelines will attract the punitive provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005. It is up to managing committee of religious places/places of worship to re-open or to defer as per the evolving situation in the locality in the interest of the safety of citizens. Specific instructions of religious places are mentioned in annexures.



A B Ibrahim IAS
Secretary to the Government

Department of Minority welfare, Haj and Waqf

Copy submitted for kind information to:

1. Chief Secretary Government of Karnataka, Vidhan soudha, Bengaluru.
2. Director General and Inspector General of Police Karnataka, Bengaluru.

3. Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru.
4. P S to Honorable minister for Animal Husbandry, Waqf and Haj, Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru.
5. P S to Hon'ble minister for Minority Welfare, Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru
6. P S to Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka State Board of Auqaf, Bengaluru.
7. PRO and Spokesperson J A Kanthraj, Archdiocese of Bengaluru.

Copies for information and necessary action:

1. The Commissioner of
Police, Bengaluru/Mysuru/Mangaluru/Huballi/Dharwad/Belgavi/Kalburgi.
2. All the Deputy Commissioners in the state.
3. All the Superintendents of Police in the state.
4. All the **Heads of Religious places/places of worship** in the state for strict compliance.

Annexure-1	For Masjid and other Muslim religious institutions
Annexure-2	For Church and other Christian religious institutions
Annexure-3	For Gurudwara Sahib and other sikh religious institutions
Annexure-4	For Jain temple (Basadi) and other Jain religious institutions
Annexure-5	For Buddhist vihara and other Buddhist religious institutions
Annexure-6	For Parsee Zoroastrian AGYARI and other Parsee religious institutions



Annexure-1 For Masjid and other muslim religious institutions

A. Masjid

Duties and responsibilities of Mutawalli/Management Committee/Administrator:

- Common prayer mats shall be avoided and musallies shall bring their own prayer mat (Jaye-namaz) or piece of cloth which they shall take back with them.
- Instructions in vernacular language on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently near entrance. The Do's and Don'ts for the Musallies to be announced in loudspeaker before Namaz.
- Disinfection of entire area of Masjid shall be done after Isha Namaz and at regular intervals.
- Mark signs on the floor in the alternate rows for positioning the Musallies during Jamath with 2 meters (6 feet) distance shall be done.
- Shoes/footwear shall be kept in separate slots for everyone away from the Masjid.
- Ensure entry of Musallis in the Masajid by queue formation ensuring physical distancing.
- The Management Committees to display the maximum number of Musallis can be accommodated in the Masajid and shall close the gates once the Musallis occupy the slots.
- Congregational Salath shall be held in convenient number of batches under different Imams as and when necessary.
- Make arrangements of Imams for one or more Jamath as per the strength of Musallies.
- Staggered timings for Jumma Namaz timing shall be held as under if necessary: 12:45 to 01:15 p.m., 01:30 to 02:00 p.m., 02:15 to 02:45 p.m. The remaining Musallies shall be allowed to wait outside the Masjid following physical distancing.
- Makhtab, Madarsa or Religious class inside the Masjid premises shall not be allowed till further instructions
- Formation of Halqah, recitation of religious books and any group discussions shall not be allowed in the Masjid.
- Nikah ceremony shall not be performed in masjid.
- Common towels, napkins and caps inside the mosque shall be strictly avoided
- Holy Quran, other religious literature and Tasbeehs shall be kept in safe custody.
- Musallies shall not be allowed to perform sunnath and nawafil in the Masjid.
- Musallies shall not be allowed to shake hands (Musahifa) or hugging with fellow Musallies.



Duties and responsibilities of Musallies:

- Musallies shall perform Taharath & Wazu (Ablution) in their home and subsequently come to Masjid.
- Perform sunnath & nawafil at the home.
- Musallies shall bring their own Jaye-Namaz (salath carpet) to the Masjid.
- The Musallies shall enter the Masjid for the Farz salath and take position in the specified marked slot of the row and maintain 2 meters (6 feet) physical distance from other musallies. In case of no slots available, Musallies shall wait outside the masjid for the next batch of Jamath.

Duties and responsibilities of Imams:

- Longer zikr or duwa is restrained for allowing the next jamath to offer salath in the Masjid
- Salath timings are to be fixed carefully in order to finish the Farz salath in one or more batches of Jamath in the permissible time. Give adequate publicity of these timings by announcements.
- Timely and Precise salath need to be performed looking to the number of Musallies arrived for offering the salath.
- Farz salath shall be started only when the Musallies have positioned themselves on the marked slots in the rows.
- Fajar & Maghrib salath need to be commenced & finished in permissible time as there is less time to perform it.
- Juma Qutba shall be precise and informative. Qutba-e-Awwal, Saani and namaz shall be completed within 15 minutes.

Duties and responsibilities of Mouzans:

- Masjid shall be opened 15 minutes earlier to the Azan.
- Preliminary arrangements may be made as per the directions of the management for smooth offering of Salath.
- Ensure cleanliness and co-ordinate with the other volunteers in the performance of their duties.
- Co-ordinate with the Musallies in formulating the batches, in case of more number of Musallies.
- Ensure courteous and spiritual atmosphere in the masjid.
- The doors of Masjid shall be closed after the completion of Farz salath.
- Remove the left over face covers/masks/gloves or other belongings by the Musallies in the Masjid.1



B. Dargah

- Guidelines issued for maintenance of dargah and management of the visitors shall be followed in the Dargah premises strictly.
- The Dargah shall remain open only between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Doors and Windows of the Dargah Sanctorum shall be opened and a ribbon shall be encircled at 2 meter distance, preventing the devotees not to enter the sanctorum of the Dargah.
- Hundi, Golak shall be installed outside the ribbon.
- Notice Board near the gates of entrance and exit displaying instructions to the Devotees (Ziarins) regarding maintenance of physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) in the premises of Dargah in vernacular languages.
- Zhanda Katta and Flag post shall not be allowed to use.
- Parking slots for the vehicles around the Dargah may be demarcated.
- Mark signs for the formation of queue to the male and female Devotees separately with 2 metre (6feet) distance in between.
- No other activity except Fateha is allowed in the premises of Dargah.
- Holy Quran and other religious literature shall be kept in safe custody.
- **The Management committee is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to.** Every masjid and dargah shall form a Covid 19 safety committee to implement and monitor these guidelines regularly and if possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that masjids and dargah are kept safe and the health of its Mussalies/others are protected.



Annexure-2 For Church and other Christian religious institutions

Duties and responsibilities during the service

- Time for celebrating Sunday Mass starts from Saturday. To start with, there shall be public masses on Sundays. Celebrate Sunday Mass on week days if the number of participants is more.
- There can be multiplication of Masses in a Church. This could be done zone wise at the Church or at convenient places in different zones. Masses can also be celebrated in all chapels.
- The pews or the places of seating are to be marked keeping in mind the instruction to maintain physical distancing of minimum 2 meters (6 feet).
- In order to accommodate more participants in the service, if possible CCTVs/display screens can be installed in the appropriate places to monitor the physical distancing and other prevention practices.
- Bell and other objects in the churches shall not be touched by anyone.
- The use of liturgical booklets and hymnals shall be suspended. LCD projectors may be used instead, for hymns and other recitals.
- Holy Communion shall be received strictly on hand or other alternatives prescribed by the bishop for the time being not by oral (tongue).
- The collections shall be taken up after the service, with one or several donation boxes placed at designated places.
- The 'sign of peace' shall be expressed by bowing heads with folded hands only.
- Only Eucharistic service may be allowed to be celebrated publicly in churches and chapels, not the other acts of worship, e.g. Rosary, Novena Prayers, Adoration of Blessed Sacraments, Charismatic meetings etc. until the time the pandemic is contained. The Government Directives are to be strictly followed for wedding and for funerals as issued from time to time.
- The same instructions given above are to be followed in the case of celebrations of Sacraments, like, baptism, 1st Communion, Confirmation, marriage etc. as also the Feast Celebrations.
- Security personnel/friendly volunteers inside and outside the churches may be appointed well in advance to enforce the discipline as per the guidelines.
- Ensure courteous and spiritual atmosphere in the church.

Participation

- People shall be in the church for minimum necessary time to participate in the Mass. They shall enter the church few minutes before the Mass and disperse soon thereafter.



- The faithful shall leave the church premises as soon as the Mass ends and avoid socializing before or after the service at the premises in groups.
- Members of the faithful who are sick, pregnant women, persons with comorbidities as well as those who have someone undergoing “home quarantine”, shall not go to church on Sunday; instead, they may continue to participate in Sacramental services from their homes online.

Live streaming

- The Masses could be live streamed for those who cannot attend due to various reasons mentioned above. Instead of receiving the actual Holy Communion they will have spiritual communion with the Lord through some spiritual practices.
- Communion can be made available at the church to those who have participated in the online service on other days by adopting a simplified rite to be provided by the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, provided the distancing procedures and other precautions are followed

Duties and responsibilities of Personnel

- **Volunteers** can be there at the door of the church with hand sanitizer. Parish priests can bless the sanitizer bottles, so that they can act also as a Holy Water. Priests and others, who distribute Holy Communion, also shall use sanitizer
- These directives may be displayed at a prominent place (at the entrance) in the church

Churches shall be well ventilated, and seats cleansed and disinfected regularly, with a disinfected carpet at the church entrance. Adequate amount of alcohol (70%) based sanitizers to be available at all entrance and at appropriate places. The use of holy water at the church entrance should be suspended.

The Priest is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to. Every church shall form a COVID-19 safety committee to implement and monitor these guidelines. If possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that churches are kept safe and the health of people are protected.



Annexure-3 For Gurudwara Sahib and other sikh religious institutions

- Instructions in vernacular language regarding the Do's and Don'ts to be displayed and announced in the payer hall.
- Security personnel/ friendly volunteers inside and outside the Gurdwara shall enforce the discipline as per the guidelines
- The management committees to display the maximum number of devotees can be accommodated in the Gurdwara and shall close the gates once the devotees occupy the slots.
- Mark signs on the floor in alternate rows for positioning the devotees during prayer with 2 meters (six feet) distance in between.
- All the prayer need to be commenced & finished in minimum permissible time.
- Sunday prayer timing shall be notified as under if necessary
 - 08.00 to 09:00 am
 - 11.30 to 12:30 pm
 - 06:30 to 07:30pm
- The extra devotees may be allowed to wait outside the Gurdwara following physical distancing with 2 meters (six feet). Exit from the Gurdwara shall be in group of two (2) persons.
- Additional devotees shall not be allowed inside when the space becomes full in the Gurdwara.
- Devotees shall avoid shaking hands or hugging with fellow devotees.
- Holy Book (Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and other religious literature shall be kept in safe custody.

The Management committee is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to. Every gurudwara shall form a COVID-19 safety committee to implement and monitor these guidelines. If possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that gurudwara are kept safe and the health of people is protected.



Annexure-4 For Jain temple (Basadi) and other Jain religious institutions

- Instructions in vernacular language regarding the Do's and Don'ts to be displayed and announced in the pooja hall.
- Security personnel/ friendly volunteers inside and outside the basadi shall enforce the discipline as per the guidelines
- The management committees to display the maximum number of devotees can attend the pooja in basadi at a time and close the gates after the pooja.
- The pooja need to be commenced & finished in minimum permissible time.
- Daily pooja timing is to be notified as under if necessary
 - 07.00am to 9:00 am
- The pooja can be live streamed for those who cannot attend due to various reasons. Instead of receiving the actual Holy water/milk they will have spiritual water/milk with the poojari through some spiritual practices.
- The extra devotees may be allowed to wait outside the basthi following physical distancing
- The additional devotees shall not be allowed when the space becomes full in the basadi.
- Devotees shall not be allowed to shake hands or hugging with fellow devotees.
- Holy Books and other religious literature shall be kept in safe custody.

The Management committee is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to. Every Jain temple shall form a COVID-19 safety committee to implement and monitor these guidelines. If possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that Jain temple are kept safe and the health of people are protected.



Annexure-5 For Buddhist vihara and other Buddhist religious institutions

- Instructions in vernacular language regarding the Do's and Don'ts to be displayed and announced in the prayer hall.
- Security personnel/ friendly volunteers inside and outside the viharas shall be appointed well in advance to enforce the discipline as per the guidelines..
- The management committees to display the maximum number of devotees can attend the pooja in viharas at a time and shall close the gates once the pooja is over.
- The pooja need to be commenced & finished in minimum permissible time.
- Daily pooja timing is to be displayed as per convenience if necessary.
- The pooja can be live streamed for those who cannot attend due to various reasons mentioned above.
- There will not be any distribution of goutham prasadi.
- Pooja beads shall be disinfected as per guidelines.
- Individuals can carry hand held prayer wheels.
- Pooja wheels attached to stupas outer walls shall not be used at present.
- During meditation devotees can use their own cloth/prayer mat.
- The extra devotees may be allowed to wait outside the monastery following physical distancing.
- The additional devotees shall not be allowed when the space becomes full in the Buddha vihara.
- Devotees shall not be allowed to shake hands or hugging with fellow devotees.
- Holy Books and other religious literature shall be kept in safe custody.

The Management committee is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to. Every buddha vihara shall form a COVID-19 safety committee to implement and monitor these guidelines. If possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that buddha vihara are kept safe and the health of people are protected.



Annexure-6 For Parsee Zoroastrian AGYARI and other Parsee religious institutions

- Instructions in vernacular language regarding the Do's and Don'ts to be displayed and announced in the prayer hall.
- Security personnel/ friendly volunteers inside and outside the Agyari shall be appointed well in advance to enforce the discipline as per the guidelines.
- The management committees to display the maximum number of devotees can attend the prayer in Agyari at a time and shall close the gates once the prayer is over.
- The presence of more than four devotees in the kebla shall not be permitted.
- Do not touch tray/priest's hands while offering *sukhad*.
- The Battery Operated Lighter to light the Divas must be cleaned with sanitizer before and after holding the lighter.
- The prayer need to be commenced & finished in minimum permissible time.
- Daily prayer timing is to be notified as per convenience if necessary.
- The prayer can be live streamed for those who cannot attend due to various reasons.
- One person shall be appointed to distribute chasni to all, in the devotees own cupped hands. Then devotees can wash their hands after eating.
- The extra devotees may be allowed to wait outside the monastery following physical distancing.
- The additional devotees shall not be allowed when the space becomes full in the Agyari.
- Devotees shall not be allowed to shake hands or hugging with fellow devotees.
- Holy Books and other religious literature shall be kept in safe custody.

The Management committee is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to. Every Agyari (Panthaki / Mobed) shall form a COVID-19 safety committee to implement and monitor these guidelines. If possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that Agyari are kept safe and the health of people is protected.



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