# **Original**

***PLEASE AMMEND/EDIT as needed for Gurdwara Sahib***

# **[ENTER Gurdwara Name] [Date]**

COVID19 Anand Karaj Guidance

The Government has issued guidance on the safe use of places of worship from the 4th of July; this includes Anand Karaj (wedding ceremonies). The purpose of these terms and conditions is to ensure the safety of the *sangat* and prevent the transmission of the virus. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by the necessary precautions we have had to implement.

The terms and conditions mentioned in this document affect all couples and families planning to hold their Anand Karaj at the Gurdwara after 4th July 2020.

If the couple or family fail to follow the measures outlined below, the Management Committee reserve the right to cancel the Anand Karaj, up to and including, on the day of the wedding.

**Terms and Conditions**

# **Number of guests** We will be allowing a maximum of ­­[ENTER NUMBER} guests to the Gurdwara for the Anand Karaj, this includes the couple and immediate family members as well.[[1]](#footnote-1) It is your responsibility to inform invitees to stay at home and not attend the Anand Karaj if they are symptomatic of Coronavirus and for those attending to adhere to social distancing. [DELETE AS NECESSARY - We will be live streaming the Anand Karaj/You can make your own arrangements for live streaming the Anand Karaj] for the benefit of those that cannot attend.

* **Catering**For everyone's safety, any external catering is not permitted on the Gurdwara premises (either for morning tea or lunch). The Gurdwara will provide langar and the menu can be discussed prior to the Anand Karaj with the Management Committe

**Wedding day**

1. Under no circumstances should the *Baraat* (Grooms side) attend the Gurdwara on a horse or dance on their way to the Gurdwara. This is not inline with Gurmat and will break social distancing rules.
2. **Milnee:** Only one milnee will take place in the [Car Park/Lobby Area] between the fathers (or family elder) of the bride and groom. Both individuals will need to stand separately and say "GurFateh". No hugging or exchanging of garlands is allowed. After this single Milnee, Ardas will be performed. During this, the Sangat should maintain social distancing.
3. **Breakfast:** No external catering is permitted. The Gurdwara will provide refreshments. These will be served inline with safe practice. Guests must eat whilst maintaining social distancing.
4. All guests must promptly be seated within the Darbar Hall after breakfast. Those not from the same household must sit at least 2 meters apart.
5. **Kurhmai:** One member of the bride's family may come to the groom and perform the *kurhmai.*
6. Upon entering the bride must only be accompanied by immediate family from the same household. The cultural practice of having children proceed as "bridesmaids" must not take place.
7. No family members or others must sit directly behind or very close to the bride/groom. Social distancing must be mantained.
8. **Palle Di Rasam**: The father (or another elder) of the bride will hand the "pala" to the bride- this can safely be completed by the father at arm's length.
9. The Granthi will read Lavaan the Path. When the Ardas is to be performed, the Granthi will maintain distance from the couple.
10. Only the bride and groom are to do Parkarma of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. No one else should stand around. The cultural custom of the brothers 'assisting' the bride must not be performed.
11. After the Lavaan, during the singing of Anand Sahib, guests must refrain from hugging or shaking hands to congratulate one another. Social distancing must be mantained for *kirtan bheta*.
12. After the lavaan, the tradition of giving *sagan* must be limited to just the parents of the couple. No one else should partake in this as it involves guests coming close to the couple and one another.
13. **Lunch:** No external catering is permitted. Simple Guru ka Langar will be served to guests after the Anand Karaj following social distancing guidance.
14. **Marriage registration**: will take place in a separate room. Only the couple, witnesses, parents, and the registrar will be permitted to be present.
15. No more than two photographers/videographers are permitted per wedding.
16. No external decorations (flowers, ornaments) or external decorators are permitted.
17. The couple and their family must follow all instructions provided to them on the day.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[BRIDE/GROOM/PARENT/FAMILY MEMBER Delete as neccesary]

Signed on Behalf of Management Committee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Government Guidance states: Weddings weddings **should** have no more than 30 people present. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)