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Date: 19th Feb 2020

Ref: MGC/OF/282/05(04-20)

To: ALL GURDWARAS,

PRESIDENT,

GURDWARA SAHIB

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh,

Sardar Ji / Sardarni Jio,

Subject: <u>Coronavirus (Covid-19)</u>

- 1. The Malaysian Gurdwaras Council (MGC) wishes to remind the Sanggat and Gurdwara Committees of the danger posed by the Coronavirus and the measures necessary to control its spread. Governments of countries are imposing measures of control according to the level of threat posed by Coronavirus to the country. The MGC had been daily watching news as to any directives from the Government and the Ministry of Health. The neighbouring Singapore's Ministry of Health has given guidelines and the measures needed to be put in place by the different organisations including places of worship. In Malaysia, the Ministry of Health has not given any such guidelines to follow yet as possibly the level of threat of Covid-19 is low.
- 2. However, the MGC advises that Gurdwara Committees enforce strict hygiene in the Gurdwaras in the preparation of "Parshad" and "Langgar" and its distribution.
- 3. The following further measures are recommended:
 - (i) Committees must make available in the Gurdwaras hand soap, sanitizers, surface disinfectants, etc.
 - (ii) All volunteers who serve Karah Parshad Degh should wash their hands thoroughly with soap before doing the Sewa.

- (iii) In preparation of langgar, absolute cleanliness must be observed. All Sewadars should wash their hands with soap and water before doing Sewa. Wherever possible, the Sewadars to wear gloves and avoid using bare-hands to prepare any food.
 - Those serving langar too should wash their hands with soap and water before serving langar.
- (iv) When washing dishes, wherever possible thereafter, to rinse the dishes with a round of warm water to sterilise them.
- (v) Any extra food should be disposed safely and no bins should be left uncovered.
- (vi) Common areas like langar hall, kitchen and toilets should be more frequently cleaned.
- (vii) For the congregation, the Gurdwara committees should ensure that hand soap bottles, hand sanitisers, paper towels are easily available.
- 4. Further measures that may be considered:
 - (i) A thermometer should be made available for any Sanggat members to check his/her temperature. Staff and Granthis are encouraged to check their temperatures daily.
 - (ii) Those with such symptoms like having cough, a body temperature of 38°C and above and difficulty in breathing should immediately seek medical treatment. Such Sanggat members are also advised to temporarily avoid going to the Gurdwaras.
- 5. The MGC is monitoring the Ministry of Health advice on a daily basis. If the level of threat is raised by the Ministry and if additional precautionary steps are suggested, then MGC will advise Sanggat accordingly

Dhanwad Ji,

Jagir Singh

President MGC