



20th March 2020

Jay Shree Swaminarayan to All Fellow Devotees,

Further to recent postings and in this unprecedented situation with escalating Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and daily changing situation in the UK, with Government guidance this Temple's trustees and management committee decided to cancel all planned events since 8th March in the interest of health and safety of all.

The decision was not taken lightly and with ever changing local environment it is sensible to protect our devotees, visitors, vulnerable in the communities and Temple pujaris. We hereby confirm the following actions have already been put in place in the last couple of weeks to safeguard individuals:-

- Prashaad and Charanmrut offering have stopped on both male and female sections,
- Gaumukhis and Malas have been removed from both male and female sections,
- Thakarthalis are cancelled, and no further bookings are currently undertaken,
- Saturday Gujarati school closed until at least 18th April,
- Local school visits to the Temple have been temporarily suspended,
- Anti-bacterial hand wash facilities have been provided at both entrance foyers for all to wash hands for at least 20 seconds before entering,
- Posters posted around the Temple premises to inform devotees of COVID-19 measures,
- Carpets will be washed and protected with plastic protection for easy wiping from this week,
- All temple activities, such as, Thursday Jam, Band Practice, Yoga Classes, Saturday Fitness/Sports, Ekadashi Jagrans, normal gatherings, etc. have all stopped,
- Charnavindh darshan have been removed from both sides,
- Panchang, Dandvat and Pradakshina is no longer be allowed,
- Refrain from engaging in any contact with any individuals including Temple pujaris,
- Where possible individuals should remain at least 2 metres away and not gather for more than 15 minutes in Temple premises, and

In addition, with daily escalating situation it is with regret we are having to further advise that for health and safety reasons from 8pm today (Friday 20th March 2020) this Temple will be closed to general public, except for its staff and nominated volunteers for general housekeeping, until further notice. Although, live daily darshan has been set up for all and is available on Temple website, <http://www.eltemple.uk/>.

In line with Government advice, anyone displaying symptoms such as continuous/chronic cough and temperature above 37.8 degrees Celsius should self-isolate immediately at their home for 7 days. If you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to stay at home for 14 days from the day their symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. If symptoms continue to persist beyond that period, please take urgent action and call the NHS on 111 or visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for further advice.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely on daily basis and will review/update current/future measures accordingly without further notice. Although, any changes will be posted on Temple social media channels including WhatsApp groups as and when necessary.

In the meantime, we request all to perform extra prayers from comfort of your homes and may Lord Shree Swaminarayan give us all strength to overcome this dark time with minimalist loss, and quickly return to normal situations. Thank you for your co-operation and being understanding in this unprecedented time.

Kind Regards,

Trustee Board/ Management Committee

For and On Behalf of SKS Swaminarayan Temple, East London

This is an electronic document and hence does not require signature(s)

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