

SRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM TRUST

Pondicherry – 605002, India (+91-413-2233628)

03.06.2020

REOPENING UPDATE

- 1) The Government is progressively relaxing lockdown measures in a phased manner across the country in non-containment zones.
- 2) The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise sharply in Pondicherry, and in the neighbouring districts of Tamil Nadu. At the same time, a better understanding of the effects of the virus on the Indian population is emerging.
- 3) It is now being recognized that it is necessary to move towards gradually restarting activities while strictly following all medical precautions.

Reopening of the Ashram Main Building

- 4) In accordance with guidelines issued by the Government, the Ashram Main Building is likely to reopen next week.
- 5) Procedure and timings for visiting the Samadhi will be announced nearer the date.

Ashram Departments

- 6) Ashram Departments/Units who wish to reopen will now be allowed to open in a regulated manner **as detailed in a separate notice** of even date. Department In-charges must ensure that all steps as detailed are followed and Government guidelines are strictly respected.
- 7) As per Government guidelines, it is advisable for persons above the age of 65 to stay at home.

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Dining Room & Food Arrangements

- 8) It is proposed to transition from the existing system of distributing food from food counter locations to reopening the Dining Room in a phased manner.
- 9) All eligible persons – Ashramites, Pass Holders (Bureau Central), etc. – who were taking food from the Dining Room before the Lockdown will receive their food from the Dining Room after it reopens. The details of reopening will be announced shortly.
- 10) Dining Room Pass Holders who wish to continue taking Dining Room food should renew their passes at Bureau Central on **Friday 5th June and Saturday 6th June from 10:00am to 12:00pm on both days.**

Maids & Domestic Helpers

- 11) The system put in place for screening the temperature and providing masks and hand sanitizer to maids and domestic helpers will continue from Workers' Dispensary (7:30am-10:30am; 2:00pm-3:30pm) and Sanitary Service (8:00am-11:00am).
- 12) As informed earlier, this is only a precautionary measure and does not certify the medical health of any person.

SAICE & PED Grounds

- 13) The Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education (SAICE) and the grounds of the Physical Education Department (PED) will remain closed.

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- 14) A decision from the Government on the schedule of reopening educational institutions is expected sometime in the month of July.


Miscellaneous

- 15) The following measures to protect against the spread of COVID-19 are to be strictly followed by all:
- A mask to cover the mouth and nose must be worn in public places and Departments.
 - Individuals must maintain social distancing (6 feet) in public places.
 - Movement of individuals is strictly prohibited between 9:00pm and 5:00am, except for essential activities.
- 16) Please be aware that in case of a continuing increase of positive cases / new containment zones more restrictive measures may once again be imposed.
- 17) The Ashram Helplines will remain open for any queries or assistance:

94870-63008

95972-92595

95971-92595



MANOJ DAS GUPTA
Managing Trustee
SRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM TRUST
PONDICHERRY