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.
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.
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

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MANOJ DAS GUPTA
Managing Trustee
SRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM TRUST
PONDICHERRY