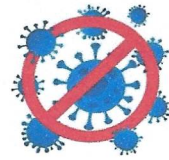




NATIONAL COVID-19 TASK FORCE SECRETARIAT



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NATIONAL COVID-19 TASK FORCE ADVISORY FOR PHAGWAH 2021

Phagwah/Holi will be celebrated on Sunday March, 28th. As a result of health and security concerns, the National COVID-19 Task Force finds it necessary to implement some restrictions to the traditional celebrations. These guidelines are as follows:

- a. Phagwah events held at mandirs, including cultural programmes, chowtal samelan and satsang (service), are allowed at 40% capacity. Mandirs are encouraged to utilize their outdoor spaces, where available.
- b. Persons are encouraged to celebrate within their home circles.
- c. Religious gatherings for the burning of Holika are allowed and social distancing must be enforced. This activity must adhere to the stipulated curfew.
- d. Masks must be worn at all times and six feet social distancing maintained, along with regular hand washing and sanitization.
- e. Phagwah celebrations do not involve the consumption of alcohol. All non-religious Phagwah activities, inclusive of Chutney Shows, Phagwah Parties and Limes, and Wet Fetes, are prohibited.
- f. Phagwah celebrations in public spaces, inclusive of creeks, lakes and resorts, are not allowed. Large gatherings are prohibited.
- g. Aside from the movement of devotees to and from places of worship, Phagwah celebrations on motorcades are prohibited.
- h. Social distancing must be respected and tolerance exercised regarding persons who do not wish to engage in Phagwah celebrations.

Please note that the Joint Services will be conducting COVICURB patrols nationwide to aggressively enforce these guidelines.

