

SIKH REPORT

COVID19 062020

INTRODUCTION

In response to the COVID19 pandemic, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire (SAY) sought to gather the views of Sikhs living in Yorkshire. The following survey, written in both English and Panjabi was disseminated to Sikhs in Yorkshire primarily via social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and phone interviews). While we recognise the limitations of these methods, they enabled us to gather over 330 responses to the survey. The questionnaire survey data was collected between the period of 29th May to the 17th June 2020.

KEY FINDINGS

The government's response to Coronavirus and understanding of its messages scored highly, with approximately 80% stating that the government acted quickly, and they understood the government communication. Panjabi speakers showing a slightly higher level of understanding.

- A significant number of respondents are key workers (almost 40%).
- Only 44% of Key workers stated that they were satisfied with the availability of PPE within their workplace.
- Of those in employment less than half were happy with social distancing measures in place.
- There is not a high level of understanding of Track & Trace.
- Half the people surveyed (51%) were not aware of any funeral guidance.
- Just over half the participants (55%) supported the opening of Gurdwara with social distancing measures in place.
- 88% stated they were not aware of the government engaging with local Sikh communities regarding Coronavirus.
- Not been able to visit families or go to the Gurdwara have been key main concerns.

IMPLICATIONS

- **For Employers**
Organisations that employ key workers need to ensure that PPE is distributed to all their staff in an equitable manner. There needs to be more of an investigation as to why Sikh key workers stated that PPE is not available.
- **For Government**
Track & Trace: more work needs to be done to ensure that the Sikh community understand this process as lock down continues to be eased.
- **For Sikh community**
More internal communication and engagement is needed on how Sikh organisations and the Government are working together. Better dissemination of information regarding funeral guidance.

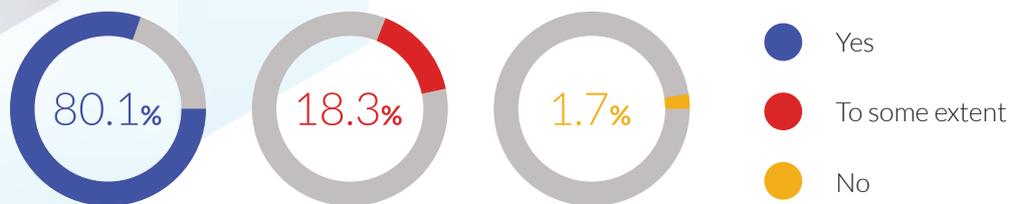
DETAILED RESULTS

Main Language Spoken

Two thirds of the respondent's main language spoken was English compared to Panjabi speaking participants who made up one third of responses. From SAY's experience, people who stated that their first language is Panjabi are slightly within the older age range compared to English speakers. Approximately 30% of the Panjabi respondents were from the Sikh Elders Service who have been educated on NHS and government Coronavirus guidance in Panjabi and English. This will have played a part in the high level of understanding within this cohort. It is also important to remember that the messaging around lockdown was simpler at the time of the survey being carried.

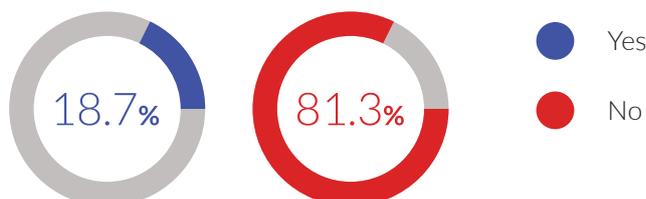
Government Guidance

From the responses received over 80% of said they understood the government guidance on Coronavirus. Approximately 18% said they understood the guidance to some extent. 2% said they did not understand the guidance. The percentage of people whose main language was Panjabi has a higher rate of understanding, at 85% compared with people who had their main language at English, where the level of understanding was at 77%. One reason we could hypothesise is that the Panjabi speaking population may source multiple media platforms in English and Panjabi to source their information.



Do you think the UK Government acted quickly enough to tackle the pandemic?

A large majority of respondents (over 80%) agreed that the government had acted quickly. These results correlate well with the previous question on understanding government's messages on Coronavirus.



DETAILED RESULTS

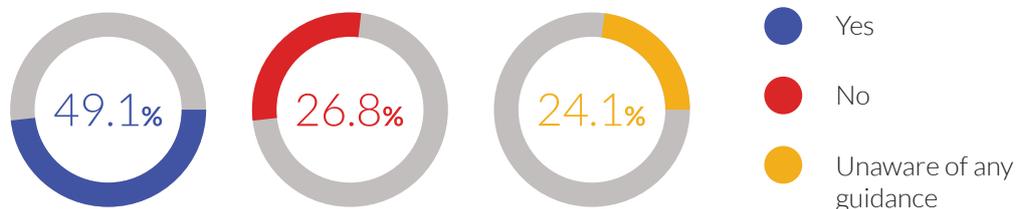
Coronavirus Testing Do you understand what is meant by Track and Trace?

Track Trace understanding	Overall	English speaking respondents	Panjabi speaking respondents
Yes	55%	37%	18%
No	13%	7%	5%
A little bit	33%	21%	11%

Just over half (54%) understood what track and trace meant, with 13% stating they had a little bit of knowledge and there were 33% who responded with no. Broken down by language the results show that English speaking participants have a markedly higher level of understanding than Panjabi speaking participants. When compared with the overall understanding of Coronavirus which was high for English and Panjabi speaking responses, track and trace represents a more detailed message that is being conveyed to the public. Therefore, a sustained and clear messaging needs to be continued.

Do you understand the funeral guidance for Sikhs at this current time?

The understanding of the guidance can also be predicated on the need to know as well as just having general awareness of this issue. However, what the results show is that half the respondents neither understood nor were unaware of the guidance regarding funerals, which is still considered low, particularly, when the Sikh community would have been considering how the pandemic would have been impacting on them.



DETAILED RESULTS

Gurdwara Issues

Are you comfortable for your local Gurdwara to re-open to the public with appropriate social distancing and safety measures?

The results show that there isn't overwhelming support for Gurdwara to open, as this report was being put together. This is not all together surprising as Gurdwara work on the concept of a communities coming together to engage and interact in their functioning.



If yes, what measures would you like to see implemented in your local Gurdwara

Social distancing was the predominate key factor that was raised for this question. Other key measures included one-way systems and keeping hygiene levels high. To the question, if Gurdwara were allowed to open, what measures would you like to see implemented, the main responses focus on being able to visit in a safe manner, specifically ensuring social distancing and one way systems are in and hygiene issues, one-way systems, and hygiene issues are considered.



DETAILED RESULTS

- Please tick the main issues you're experiencing during the lockdown**

From the preselected list, respondents could pick numerous categories which reflected with their personal experiences. Unable to visit family members was the highest recorded issue with 30% of respondents citing this category. This was followed by being unable to visit the Gurdwara and anxiety and fear around the current situation. There were also 15 respondents which also mentioned domestic and substance abuse which equates to 2% of all responses.

19%	Anxiety/fear
11%	Work/job
13%	Schooling and children challenges
20%	Unable to attend Gurdwara
30%	Unable to visit family members
2%	Domestic and substance abuse
6%	Other



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THANK YOU

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