

City malls screen visitors for coronavirus

HT Correspondent

ludhiana@hindustantimes.com

LUDHIANA: In view of the coronavirus threat, several malls in the city have started screening visitors before allowing them to enter. Apart from installing an infrared thermometer to check the body temperature, malls have also started keeping sanitisers at the entry gates, besides providing masks and gloves to security personnel.

MBD NEOPHIS MALL

At the MBD Neoplis Mall on Ferozepur Road, a huge queue was witnessed at the entrance due to the screening test.

Three security personnel, including a woman, were found checking the body temperature of all visitors using an infrared thermometer. From toddlers to elderly, it is mandatory for all residents to go through the screening before gaining entry.

Prabjot Singh Khara, associate vice-president, sales and marketing, MBD Group real estate division, said, "The well-being and safety of our guests and colleagues is our priority. In view of the increasing concerns about COVID-19, we are working closely with local authorities and following all guidelines and protocols as recommended by them and ministry of health, the government of India," he said.

He added that as many as seven infrared thermometers were provided to the security department to cover all entry gates of the mall as well as Hotel Radisson Blu. "We have also provided masks and gloves to the security personnel to avoid physical contact with the guest while conducting the security check. Sanitisers were also placed at all entry gates and parking areas for the benefit of guests," he said.

LONG QUEUES BUT RESIDENTS LAUD MOVE

Despite the inconvenience caused due to the long queues,



Security personnel checking the body temperature of visitors with infrared thermometer at MBD Mall in Ludhiana on Monday.

HARSIMAR PAL SINGH/HT

STAFF AT THE MALLS PROVIDED WITH MASKS AND GLOVES TO AVOID DIRECT CONTACT WITH VISITORS; SANITISERS ALSO KEPT AT GATES

residents aren't complaining. "This is necessary in view of the pace at which COVID-19 seems to be spreading. It is the responsibility of all residents to take precautions to avoid the further spread of the virus," said Simarjot Singh, 26, of Barewal Awana, who was standing in the queue outside the MBD mall, where he had gone to watch a movie.

He added that similar screenings should be done at all public places, including bus stand and railway station.

Harpreet Singh, another visitor and a resident of BRS Nagar, said, "Everyone should keep a small bottle of sanitiser and a mask with them while going out

in public."

INFORMATIONAL POSTERS

At the Silver Arc Mall, posters highlighting the precautionary measures to be adopted to avoid the spread of COVID-19, were displayed at the entry gates.

Harpreet Singh, security head said, "Apart from providing masks and gloves to the security personnel, we are creating awareness among visitors about the virus." Meanwhile, Amarinder Singh, general manager of the Wave Mall, said they have stopped biometric attendance till further notice. "The attendance is being marked on registers. We are also making sure to clean the railings and desks from time-to-time," he said. An official from Pavilion Mall, stated that they have provided sanitisers at all the gates. Masks and gloves were also provided to the security personnel.

PREFER 'NAMASTEY' OVER SHAKING HANDS

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SOME CANCEL EVENTS, OTHERS TO AVOID USE OF COLOURS

LUDHIANA: The coronavirus scare put a damper of Holi festivities with many having to cancel celebrations as a precautionary measure.

Varun Bagga, the organiser of 'Uda de gugal' event said he had spent lakhs of rupees on organising the event and even sold out 70 passes but had to cancel the event after deputy commissioner (DC) Pradeep Agrawal cancelled their permission. "We had been given permission initially but the DC cancelled the event at the last minute so we had to cancel," he said.

Meanwhile, Govind Godham and Iskon Temple have decided to avoid the use of colours. Ashok Dhawan from Govind Godham said,

"As a precautionary measure, we will be using flowers instead of colours to celebrate the festival. Apart from that, sanitisers will also be provided."

Sanjeev Sood Banka of Iskon Temple said that they do not celebrate Holi with colours and celebrate the eve of God Purnima and Holi by chanting the name of god. "However, we are getting the hall properly cleaned and will make sanitisers available for the devotees," he said.

The organisers of a Holi event being conducted on South City Road, requesting anonymity, said they have arranged masks and sanitisers for the visitors.

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