



TEMPLE OPENING GUIDELINES

OPENING DATE: MONDAY, 6 JULY 2020

Based on the Government’s announcement recently, the Board has decided to open the temple on **Monday, the 6th of July, 2020** with limited hours, as shown below, on a restricted basis and in full compliance with the Ministry of Health guidelines. The guidelines laid out in this document will be modified as and when the Public Health authorities or the Government issues further instructions.

It is very important that everyone strictly follows these guidelines. Staff/Volunteers will be directing the movement and activities inside and outside the temple to ensure adherence to the guidelines and to allow for a smooth flow of patrons thereby providing a chance for everyone to access the deities in the temple. Your patience and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

The health and safety of our devotees and their families, our priests, temple staff and volunteers is paramount in this endeavor.

Temple opening hours will be:

| | Mornings | Evenings |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Weekdays | 7 am to 9 am | 6 pm to 8 pm |
| Weekends/Holidays | 8 am to 11 am | 5 pm to 8 pm |

(a) GENERAL

1. All foot wear should be kept in an organized fashion outside the temple near the north entrance in the area specifically marked for this purpose. In the case of bad weather, other areas will be assigned for this purpose. Devotees are encouraged to leave the footwear in the car itself, if possible to prevent clutter.
2. During the hours of operation the doors at the temple entrance and exit will be left open to avoid contact spread of any potential infection. Entry will be through the North entrance and exit from the South entrance.
3. **An online registration through the temple website will be required to visit the temple.** Each time slot is for 30 minutes. You will be required to indicate the preferred time slot and the number of people in each party. Maximum number of people in each party can be 4, but living in the same address. If you have more than 4 members in the family, please register another slot separately. This is to ensure that no more than 50 devotees are inside the temple at one time. It is our hope that very young children, elderly devotees and devotees with significant underlying illnesses will avoid attending the temple in the initial stages of the opening.
4. Time allotment will be observed very strictly and you will be required to leave the temple within the time slot to allow the next set of registered devotees avail themselves of the time allotted to them.



5. Seniors and those with special needs may be accommodated subject to space availability. Please bear with us for any inconvenience cause. Maximum number of people allowed to accompanying them will be 3.
6. Anyone who has a fever, runny nose, cough, any inherent illness or those who have travelled recently or are in contact with an individual who is ill or with a history of recent travel, should refrain from coming to the temple and as per the ministry guidelines, they should observe a 14 day quarantine to allow for complete recovery.
7. **A process of screening, including temperature check, and registration for contact tracing** is instituted at the temple entrance to help reduce the risk of spread and to ensure that devotees entering the temple will be wearing a mask/face covering. **Masks/face coverings will be mandatory when inside the temple, until further notice.** The temple is not in a position to provide masks/face coverings to devotees, therefore please come with your own. Those who require masks will have to purchase it at \$5 each, subject to availability.
8. If there are more than 50 members inside the temple, staff/volunteers will request you to wait outside the temple maintaining a 6 feet separation/social distancing till it is your turn to enter the temple. Collecting in groups within the temple and on the temple grounds is strictly prohibited.
9. Temple will be thoroughly cleaned twice a week and all contact areas will be sanitized as frequently as required.
10. Sanitizer Dispensers will be placed in the elevator area [North entrance] for use prior to entering the temple.
11. During the initial opening phase, chairs will not be available for sitting nor will the seating areas along the wall or the stage. According to the current recommendations every area of contact needs to be sanitized right away and this will be a difficult process to manage given the limited number of volunteers and the necessity to maintain a smooth flow of patrons through the temple.
12. Devotees should refrain from touching temple structures and Temple lamps, bells and utensils except for those individuals who are actually involved in the using and the cleaning of these items. Prostration before the deities should be withheld during the initial phase of opening.
13. *Theertham, Chandanam* and *prasadam* will not be available, even for booked poojas. There will also be no group chanting at this time.
14. Devotees are requested not to bring any food items or fruits to the temple for pooja, *prasadam*, and/or personal consumption.
15. The basement will remain closed and hence no washroom facilities will be available.
16. No food will be served anywhere within the temple premises.

(b) POOJA BOOKINGS

1. On line pooja bookings are still encouraged to avoid personal contact and because of the limited time of 30 minutes available for each visitation. Staff will prepare the list each day and it will be given to priest conducting the pooja.
2. If you wish to book poojas at the counter, please maintain a safe distance of 6 feet. A plexi glass shield is installed to protect the staff members. All payments should be by way of credit or debit cards. Cash payment should be avoided as much as possible and if this is inevitable, then the exact amount should be tendered as the staff will be unable to provide change.
3. Receipts will be printed and given to the priests by the staff member. Copies of the receipts will be emailed if requested. Donation receipts will be emailed to the patrons.



4. **Annadanam and Choroona poojas will not be conducted until further notice.**
5. Weddings will be allowed with a maximum attendance of 10 people, including one priest.
6. *Vahana pooja* will be conducted; but the priests will not touch the vehicle or keys.
7. *Thulabharam* will be permitted with the same restrictions in terms of direct contact.

(c) WHILE INSIDE THE TEMPLE

1. Each family can remain together as one group; but they should maintain a safe distance of 6 feet with other devotee families. There will be markings on the floor to indicate this distance.
2. Devotees should come inside, pray and then leave and this will ensure that everybody gets a chance. No personal gatherings, socialization or discussions will be allowed inside the temple. This is to allow visitation to be maintained within the allotted time slots, to allow more members to visit the temple and maintain social distancing to protect the devotees and their families, the priests and staff inside the temple.
3. Masks/face coverings are to be worn at all times inside the temple. The priests will also be wearing a mask/face covering when they are out in the public space.
4. No *prasadam* will be distributed by the priests.
5. *Dakshina* to the priests should be dropped directly in the box kept for the purpose.
6. No photography or video recording will be allowed.

(d) WHILE OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE

1. While waiting outside to gain access to the temple, it is again important to maintain a 6 feet distance.
2. We encourage you to wait outside patiently and comply with the instructions of the attending staff as this is required to restrict the number of people inside the temple at one time.
3. Please refrain from gathering in crowds outside and always maintain 6 feet distance with others.
4. There are city bylaw officers watching if the guidelines are being followed; and if they find any violation, they will issue tickets with a fine. Please be careful and considerate so that the temple opening is not jeopardized and there are no setbacks.
5. No photography or video recording will be allowed even outside the temple.

