

# **GURUVAYURAPPAN TEMPLE OF BRAMPTON**

## **TEMPLE OPENING GUIDELINES – AS OF 1<sup>st</sup> OF JULY, 2021**

Based on the recent Provincial Government's announcement, the Board has decided to open the temple from **Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of June**, with limited hours on restricted basis and in full compliance with the Ministry of Health guidelines.

It is very important that everyone strictly follow 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 are our priority; therefore, these guidelines will be strictly enforced with no exceptions:

### TEMPLE VISITING HOURS ON REGULAR BASIS

- Weekdays – 7 am to 9 am and 6 pm to 8 pm
- Weekends/Holidays – 7 am to 11.30 am and 5 pm to 8 pm

### PRIOR REGISTRATION

- All devotees planning to visit the temple must register online. The link for registration is:  
<https://www.guruvayur.ca/visit-registration/>
- For each 20-minute slot (with 10 minutes break for overlap), 6 families (of four members each) will be allowed to register. Available slots will be shown at the time of booking.
- Please indicate your name, email address, phone number, number of persons planning to visit, as well as the number of persons in the group who have been fully (2 shots) and partially (1 shot) vaccinated on the form.
- It is important that those registered online arrive on time, and leave immediately after '*darshanam*'.
- Timings will be strictly adhered to and late comers may lose their opportunity to visit especially if the spots are fully booked for subsequent times.
- If you are booking poojas online, and wish to visit the temple at that time, you should still pre-register for the visit separately.
- Walk-ins will only be permitted if there are available spots; devotees may have to wait till spots are available.
  
- It is strongly recommended that very young children (below 12), elderly devotees (above 80) and devotees with significant underlying illnesses avoid attending the temple in the initial stages of the opening for their own safety.
- Anyone who has a fever, runny nose, cough, any intercurrent illness or and those who are in contact with an individual who is ill called 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.

#### ON ARRIVAL AT THE TEMPLE

- All footwear should be kept in an organized fashion outside the temple near the north entrance in the area specifically marked for this purpose.
- Entry and exit will be from North entrance.
- The basement area will remain closed, and available for use only for emergency washroom requirements.
- No more than 25 devotees will be allowed inside the temple at one time.
- All visitors will be screened on arrival at the registration desk for (a) temperature check (b) contact details (c) wearing of appropriate mask/face covering and (d) use of sanitizers. This is required for contact tracing purposes; Entry will be denied if you are unwilling to provide the required information.
- Please bring your own mask.
- If there are more than 25 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 or outside the temple is strictly prohibited.
- Temple will be cleaned and all contact areas will be sanitized as frequently as required.
- No chairs will be available for sitting and all seating areas along the wall or the stage will be blocked off. According to the current recommendations every area of contact needs to be sanitized right away and this will be a difficult process to manage.
- 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.
- No Annadanam/food will be served anywhere within the temple premises.

#### POOJA BOOKINGS

- Temple will continue to conduct all poojas.
- Online pooja bookings are still encouraged to avoid personal contact using the following link or on website. <https://www.guruvayur.ca/pooja-booking-payments/>
- If you are required to book poojas at the counter, please maintain a safe distance of 6 feet and all payments should be by credit or debit cards only. Cash payment should be avoided as much as possible and if this is inevitable, then an exact amount should be tendered as the staff will be unable to provide change.
- Receipts for poojas will be printed and given to the priests by the staff member. Copies of the receipts for poojas and donations will be emailed, if requested.
- Annadanam will not be offered until further notice for safety reasons.
- *Choroon and out calls could be booked*
- Weddings will be allowed with a maximum attendance of 25 people in attendance; maximum time limit will be one hour especially during weekends. Please book in advance so that we can block the visitors spots accordingly.

#### WHILE INSIDE THE TEMPLE

- Each family can remain together as one group; but they should maintain a safe distance of 6 feet with other devotee families. Please follow the markings on the floor to indicate this distance.
- Devotees should come inside, pray and then leave within 10 minutes please. No personal gatherings, socialization or discussions will be allowed inside the temple. This is 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.
- Masks are to be worn at all times inside the temple. The priests will also be wearing a mask when they are out in the public space.
- *Temple will distribute Prasadam such as Flowers and Chandanam. However, Temple will not accept any Pooja materials or nivedyam items (example: Rice, butter, flowers, fruits) from devotees until further notice.*
- *Dakshina* to the priests should be dropped directly in the box kept for the purpose.
- No photography or video recording will be allowed INSIDE the temple.

#### WHILE OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE

- While waiting outside to gain access to the temple, it is again important to maintain a 6 feet distance and avoid crowding as bylaw officers are inspecting gatherings.
- We encourage you to wait outside patiently and comply with the instructions of the attending staff to restrict the number of people inside the temple at one time.
- There are city bylaw officers conducting regular inspections and any violation of the public health guidelines will be subject to fine and order to close the premises. Please be careful and considerate so that the temple opening is not jeopardized and there are no setbacks.
- No photography or video recording will be allowed even OUTSIDE the temple.

#### E-DEEPARADHANA

- We will continue E-Deeparadhana so that those of you who are unable to visit can still participate in the Deeparadhana every day.
-

# GURUVAYURAPPAN TEMPLE OF BRAMPTON

## GUIDELINES FOR OUTCALLS

OUTCALLS ARE PERMITTED AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CONTACT THE TEMPLE FOR GUIDELINES AND BOOKING.

---

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- You should follow the same protocols and instructions when on duty at the temple.
  - Registration is a MUST and all information on the log should be obtained from the devotees and recorded. A new column is added to check how many in the group have been vaccinated. (number of people who have accepted both the shots, or one shot). This is for statistical purposes. All information collected should be carefully handled and maintained in strict confidentiality.
  - Please ensure that everyone inside the temple follow the instructions. Please be courteous to the devotees when explaining the protocols.
  - If there is any non-compliance, please bring it to the attention of the Manager or Assistant Manager immediately.
-