

Dear Devotees,

I want to share good news for re-opening of our mandir. Province of Ontario has now allowed the places of worship to open effective Friday, June 12th, 2020 with restrictions.

We are now permitted to open the mandir but are restricted to 30% capacity. 30% capacity comes to about 146 people.

Initially we plan for only about 75 to 100 people and will increase slowly. The Board has decided to open the mandir on **SUNDAY, JULY 5th, 2020** for regular prayer service at 10:30 AM. But there will be a number of restrictions as mandated by the Province of Ontario.

As you will see there are a lot of restrictions imposed on us by the Province of Ontario and London Middlesex Health Unit, but these are temporary and will be eased as permitted by authorities.

THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE FOR YOUR OWN AND OTHERS SAFETY.
EVERYONE ENTERING WILL BE REGISTERED AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS NOTED, INCASE ANY CONTACT TRACING IF REQUIRED.

HCC Board has decided the restrictions in two groups as follows:

GROUP 1: COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

1. Fever (37.8 deg C or greater) or chills
2. Any new/worsening (acute respiratory illness symptoms):
 - a. Cough
 - b. Shortness of breath.
 - c. Sore throat, hoarse voice, difficulty in breathing.
 - d. Runny nose or nasal congestion (without known cause)
3. Any new, unexplained symptoms of fatigue and generalized muscle aches
4. Any new, unexplained headache
5. New nausea, vomiting/diarrhoea/abdominal pain
6. New loss of smell/taste disturbance
7. Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
8. Have you been advised quarantine by any health authorities in Ontario/Canada?
9. Have you travelled within the last 14 days outside of Canada/Ontario?
10. Have you had close contact with a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19?
11. Have you had close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been outside of Canada in the 14 days before their symptom onset?
12. Are you over age 65 and experiencing? Delirium/confusion Falls

IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS OR ANY OF THE ABOVE APPLIES TO YOU – PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE MANDIR – PLEASE CONSULT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR VISIT A COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTER IN LONDON, ONTARIO.

GROUP 2:

1. All entrance doors will be kept open for the devotees to walk in.
2. The washrooms will be closed.
3. Must wear a mask at all times when in the mandir.
4. Bring your own mask, if you do not have a mask you will be denied entry into the mandir.
5. You can purchase a mask with a donation of minimum \$ 1.00
6. Use hand sanitizer provided in the lobby.
7. Use the coat rooms for your shoes and coats.
8. Do Not Use the Bell at the entry into the mandir.
9. The stairs going into the auditorium and kitchen are closed.
10. The prayer hall will be marked to keep a distance of 6 feet between each individual.
11. Family can and should sit together.
12. There will be no singing and kirtan.
13. Keep a distance of 6 feet from Panditji
14. Only bananas are permitted as prasad.
15. No Flowers are allowed at present.
16. There will be no charnamat
17. There will be no Chandan or Roli tikka.
18. There will be no tying of hand band.
19. Panditji will only recite mantras and Katha.
20. Panditji will be sitting behind a plexiglass sheet.
21. Arti will be circulated by three or four adults, please do not touch any part of thali.
22. There will be no handshaking. Greet each other in our Indian way with folded hands.
23. There will be no hugging.
24. No touching of idols is permitted.
25. You will not be allowed to offer water or milk over Shivling.
26. In the initial stages the puja will be short.
27. Best will be to do your puja and own namaskar and leave the mandir, so that other individuals can come in.
28. Please take added precautions if you have an elevated risk of Covid-19 or if you are immunocompromised (like on chemotherapy/radiation)
29. Practice good respiratory etiquette (sneeze/cough into tissues or elbows and sanitize your hands)
30. Wash/sanitize your hands frequently.

Mohan Merchea,

President HCC