

## **Maha Ganapathy Temple Specific Guidelines for Visiting the Temple** (Sep 20 Revision)

The following guidelines are developed using the Alberta Health Service Guidelines for the places of worship that are to be strictly observed by the devotees visiting the Maha Ganapathy Temple during the initial reopening stage.

1. A limited number of devotees are allowed inside the temple to meet the AHS guidelines and the temple requirements.
2. Regular Abishekam sponsoring is allowed with the devotees' presence but on a limited scale. Only a limited number of Abishekam sponsors are allowed during the Abishekam/Pooja time. Abishekam sponsors who want to be present at the Temple are also required to book at least two (2) days in advance and confirm with the temple if they will be attending the Abishekam. All other devotees are allowed, on first come first basis, space permitting, for 15 minutes during the abishekam/pooja time.
3. Archanas and vehicle key pooja are allowed with the devotees' presence only after the Abishekam/Pooja is over (~7:45 PM on evenings and ~10:15 AM on weekend mornings) on a first-come-first-served basis. For other services available, please check the updated [Fee Schedule](#).
4. Credit card and Interac transactions are preferred. Non-contact methods are encouraged. We encourage using the online booking system for the services.
5. Devotees can enter the Temple on first come first serve basis as long they meet the Temple requirements.
6. It is recommended that the devotees complete [Alberta Health Services - Self Assessment \(click here\)](#) before visiting the Temple.
7. A [Questionnaire \(click here\)](#) need to be printed, completed, and signed on the day of visit (also available at the Temple entrance).
8. Do not bring any puja materials including fruits, flowers, garlands, lime lamps, or arugampullu. The items allowed are milk (with an expiry date of at least one week left for milk), honey, rose water, ghee and oil (vegetable oil only) in sealed plastic/glass container, rice bags (up to 8 kg) and any unopened non-perishable item in sealed bags/containers. These materials will be used for abishekam/pooja at a later date.
9. Any food items or prasadam are strictly prohibited during this time. Sunday lunch program is not available
10. There will be limitations on the devotee movement within the temple. Once inside the Temple devotees are required to follow instructions, floor markings, barriers and signages.
11. The Temple reserves the rights to limit the time devotee/household members spend within the temple, especially during peak periods. Suggested maximum time inside temple is 15 minutes per household
12. Children must stay with a household member at all times
13. Physical distancing with other devotees, priests, employees and volunteers: ensure a minimum of 2-metre (6 feet) physical separation at all times while at the temple premises. Physical separation is not required between family members of the same household.
14. Face mask must be worn always within the Temple premises. Please bring your own face masks.
15. Shaking hands, hugging, touching, or passing items between people must not occur except between members of the same household as it compromises the distancing requirements.
16. Do not touch any of the deities, walls or barriers. Devotees must remain within the marked area at all times.
17. Conversation with other devotees is prohibited. Only conversation required for office transaction with the manager/volunteers or of a spiritual nature with priest are allowed.
18. Panchanga, Ashtanga or Sashtanga namaskarams on the temple floor is not permitted.
19. Devotees are not allowed to sit on the floor except during Homa where a mat will be provided.
20. No singing or chanting is allowed within the temple.
21. Vibhuti and prasadam will not be distributed at this time.