



THE HINDU TEMPLE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam



Precautions to prevent Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)

You might already know that New York City & State have declared state of emergency due to outbreak of Corona virus. We are closely monitoring the situation and vigilantly implementing enhanced protocols to ensure the safety of our devotees, volunteers, visitors, priests and staff.

Entry Restrictions:

If you are sick with flu like symptoms (such as fever, cough, sore throat, diarrhea, shortness of breath, muscle aches) or recently traveled to an affected area, please do not enter Śri Mahā Vallabha Ganapati Devasthānam premises and if necessary seek medical advice.

Congregation of more than 8 devotees at a time will not be permitted in the Temple. Please cooperate. Devotees will be given guidance by the security at the door on Bowne Street entrance.

While entering the temple:

- Wash your hands with liquid soap for at least 20 seconds thoroughly
- Use hand sanitizer frequently
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow (best to avoid airborne travel of virus)
- Quickly complete your prayer/worship and leave the premises to give way for others who are waiting.

In the Mahā Mantapam / Main hall / Prasadam distribution hall:

- Devotees are advised not to hand touch the prasadam. Use the spoon and wear a poly gloves (powder free approved for food handling).
- Not to hand touch theertham/sacred water.
- DO NOT bring in any homemade or outside purchased dravyas such as fruits, milk, honey, naivedyam and sweets. It will NOT be accepted.
- Devotees while inside the Temple main hall, keep sufficient distance with other devotees.
- Vibhooti and Kumkum prasadam available upon request, at the Counter.

Religious services:

- All scheduled religious services will be carried out by the priests without any interruption.
- Devotees are advised to be cautious by not touching any of the Pooja material.
- Priests will give Archana / Abhishekam bags for those sponsoring these poojas.
- Please do not give anything to the priest with your hands.
- All the Pooja materials will be thoroughly washed soon after completion of every Pooja.

We seek cooperation from every one during this challenging time.

Updated as of March 16, 2020