



The Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam Inc.

ABN 50 275 645 361 Reg. No. A0020949F

P O Box 146, The Basin, VIC 3154

Tel: Temple: +613 9762 1835 Canteen: +613 9762 1688

MOBILE: +614 36001 881

12 May 2020

Dear Devotees,

Re: Covid Safe environment Procedures:

Pray, that Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar is keeping you and your family safe during this COVID-19 pandemic.

The following procedures will be strictly adhered to:

1. Temple Opening times are as follows:

Weekdays:	Weekends and public holidays
8 am to 12 Noon	8 am to 2 pm
5 pm to 9 pm	4 pm to 9 pm

2. Appointments

- 2.1. All devotees are kindly requested to make an appointment to visit the temple during the above-mentioned opening times.
- 2.2. Please call any of the following people to make an appointment:
 - 2.2.1. Suri 0470293217
 - 2.2.2. Srinivasan 0470 203 500
 - 2.2.3. Temple 0436 001 881
- 2.3. Appointments will be given in 15 mins slots, from 8.30 am whilst the temple is open.
- 2.4. From 8 am to 9.00 am and 7 to 7.30 pm is pooja time and no archana will be done during this time. Whoever wants to see the Pooja they are welcome to do so at these times. However, priority will be given to sponsors who are sponsoring an Abhishegam or Pooja on that day
- 2.5. No appointment can be booked indefinitely for the foreseeable future. Devotees are encouraged to book only for one month at a time at this stage.
- 2.6. Only 5 devotees will be allowed in the temple at any one time.
- 2.7. Devotees are requested to be mindful of the time of their booking and arrive on time and leave on time.
- 2.8. Devotees who arrive without a booking will have to wait until all those people who have booked beforehand have finished.

3. Improve tracing

- 3.1. In line with the Victorian Government's current guidelines, all devotees will need to register prior to entry to the temple. Registration will mean that they must provide their first name, last

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name, Mobile number, and email address. This is to allow quick contact tracing in the event of an outbreak.

3.2. Devotees are all encouraged to download the “covidsafe” app, before coming to the temple.

4. Ubayams, thivashams, archanais and Bhajans

4.1. Devotees who are sponsors for various ubayams will be the only ones allowed on the day of the Ubayam from 8.00 am to 9.00 am and between 6.45 pm and 7.45 pm only. Appointments will be given to others outside of these times. Only 5 members of the sponsors’ family will be allowed in at any one time during the Ubayam booking.

4.2. Archanai tickets at \$10 and \$25 will be available only. No \$51 archanais (all deities).

4.3. Thivashams will be conducted between 7 am and 8 am only.

4.4. Outside Poojas will be accepted but social distancing measures will also apply such as limitation on the number of participants. etc.

5. Social Distancing rules

5.1. All devotees will be expected to keep 1.5m away from each other.

5.2. The temple will have the 4 sq meters marked for each devotee. Please stay within your square and only move to the other square when there is no one in the square.

5.3. ALL devotees will need to sanitize their hand before entering the temple. This is immaterial if a devotee has sanitized in the car or not.

5.4. We request devotees who have even the slightest cold symptoms to postpone their visit to the temple. Devotees who are ill will not be allowed into the temple.

5.5. Temperature checks for all devotees will be done prior to entry.

5.6. Devotees are encouraged to wear masks when they are in the temple premises and if they have none, one will be provided by the temple.

5.7. In the temple, devotees will need to pray in an orderly manner. All devotees will need to enter via the Nagathambiran/Hanuman shrine door and leave via the Navagraham shrine door.

5.8. The whole passage will only be “one way”. Archanai tickets can be bought inside the temple as soon as one enters the main temple from the Nagathambiran/Hanuman Shrine.

5.9. Devotees are encouraged to be covid safe by avoiding touching various surfaces in the temple as much as possible.

5.10 We prefer that all cash transactions with the temple are done “contactless”.

5.10. Devotees who wish to give flowers need to give this in a plastic bag, which will be sanitized upon acceptance.

5.11. Donations of 1 litre milk cardboard cartons will similarly be sanitized before acceptance.

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- 5.12. All prasathams will be prepacked and given to devotees in plastic bags only.
- 5.13. Vibuthi, Santhanam and Kumkum will be served by the priest without physical contact.
- 5.14. The temple staff will need to sanitize the area after each visit.
- 5.15. Devotees who wish to light lamps will need to do so only when they exit the temple.

Your kind cooperation and understanding in this difficult circumstance will be most appreciated. The Management committee and the staff will do their best to accommodate and continue to endeavor give you the best possible experience when you visit the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple. These rules will be amended in line with changing circumstances and or changes to the Victorian Government guidelines.

Pray, that Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar will bless you and your family

Yours Sincerely,

For Management Committee

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