



COMMISSIONER, BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE

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No: COMM/CWR/ADVISORY-RELIGIOUS PLACES/2020-21

Date: 10-06-2020

**Advisory for Religious Places
In the Context of Unlock 1.0**

To All the Concerned

In exercise of powers conferred under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) through Order No: RD158TNR 2020 dated 14-04-2020 of Government of Karnataka and as per National Directives issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and SOP issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, the following advisory is issued for BBMP to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic at Religious Places or Places of Worship in the city.

This advisory is issued for necessary implementation during the Phased Reopening (Unlock 1.0) to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic at Religious Places which are relatively close settings, with shared spaces and can become likely places for the spread of COVID-19 infection among devotees and visitors if strict protocols are not followed.

It is important to maintain Physical Distancing and follow the directions in this advisory for the Safety of our Citizens and the City in this Unlock 1.0 period.

At the outset, the main directions to be followed at Religious Places are:

- ✓ Religious places/places of worship in containment zones shall remain closed.
- ✓ Persons above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home, except for essential and health purposes. Organizations that are managing the religious places or institutions/managements to advise accordingly.
- ✓ Large gatherings/congregation continue to be strictly prohibited.
- ✓ Touching of statues/idols / holy books, etc. and choir or singing in groups not to be allowed.
- ✓ Avoid physical contact while greeting each other.

- ✓ Devotees/visitors to carry their prayer mat or piece of cloth to be used instead of common prayer mats.
- ✓ No physical offerings like Prasad distribution or a sprinkling of holy water, etc. to be allowed.
- ✓ No Dasoha & Community Feeding to be done for the present.

Along with these National directives, the following directives shall be read and followed for containment of the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

1. Physical Distancing:

- ✓ Physical Distancing for a minimum of 6 feet, wearing of the mask at the premises is mandatory and respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed.
- ✓ Adequate manpower shall be deployed by the Management for ensuring Physical Distancing norms.
- ✓ Separate entry and exits for visitors, workers, and goods/supplies shall be organized.
- ✓ Restriction on the number of people inside the religious places shall be ensured so that there is adequate Physical Distancing.

2. Sanitization:

- ✓ Sanitizers for hand hygiene shall be provided and used at the entrances regularly and not just customarily. Frequent handwashing with soap shall be done.
- ✓ All Religious Places should follow hand hygiene and conduct thermal screening at the entrance to all its devotees and visitors and only devotees/visitors who do not have fever, cough, cold, etc. shall be allowed.
- ✓ Frequent cleaning and disinfection of floors, doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, benches, etc. are mandatory.
- ✓ Disinfection of the interior of the vehicle especially the steering, door handles, keys, etc. should be taken up using 1% sodium hypochlorite solution/spray regularly.
- ✓ Supply of hand sanitizers, soap, and running water in the washrooms to be ensured uninterrupted.
- ✓ Effective sanitization within the premises shall be maintained with particular focus on lavatories, drinking, and handwashing stations/areas at all times. Deep cleaning of all washrooms shall be ensured at regular intervals.





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Narasimha Raja Square, Bengaluru – 560002

- ✓ Proper disposal of face covers/masks/gloves leftover by visitors and/or devotees should be ensured.
- ✓ Shoes/footwear to be preferably taken off inside your vehicle. If needed they should be kept in separate slots for each individual/family by the persons themselves. Not to be allowed inside.

3. Masks / Face Coverings:

- ✓ All devotees/visitors to be allowed entry only if using face covers/masks. The face covers/masks have to be worn at all times inside the religious places/places of worship.
- ✓ Also, it is important to wear a face mask correctly. The FAQs about how to wear a mask are available for access on the link here <http://covid19.bbmpgov.in/pages/faqs>.

4. Other Important Directives:

- ✓ Self-monitoring of health and reporting any illness at the earliest to BBMP helpline.
- ✓ Spitting should be strictly prohibited.
- ✓ Prominently displaying of the IEC materials and Audio / Video clips to spread awareness on preventive measures for COVID-19 should be regularly taken up.

5. To Staff and Management:

- ✓ All staff/members who are at higher risk i.e. older employees, pregnant employees, and employees who have underlying medical conditions, to take extra precautions. They should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work requiring direct contact with the public.
- ✓ Valet parking, if available, shall be operational with operating staff wearing face covers/masks and gloves as appropriate. Proper disinfection of steering, door handles, keys, etc. of the vehicles should be taken up during the process.
- ✓ For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which inter alia emphasizes that the temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24^o C - 30^o C, relative humidity should be in the range of 40 % - 70 %, in-take of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate.

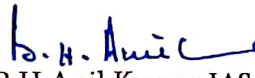
6. In case of a suspect or confirmed case in the premises:

- ✓ Isolate the person from others at the religious places/places of worship.
- ✓ Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the state or BBMP helpline.
- ✓ A risk assessment will be undertaken by the designated public health authority and the need for disinfection.
- ✓ Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found COVID-19 Positive.

For information of Bengaluru Citizens, the FAQs in connection with this advisory and other advisories issued by the undersigned in the context of Unlock 1.0 can be accessed at the link here: <http://covid19.bbmpgov.in/pages/faqs>. This advisory can be accessed on the BBMP COVID-19 Dashboard. The link to access is <http://covid19.bbmpgov.in>.

The National Directives about Face Coverings / Physical Distancing / No spitting / No urinating in Public Places shall be followed as a matter of Social Responsibility and for Personal Safety. Your Health and Safety is our prime concern. Let us adapt to the New Norm to Stay Safe and strive sincerely to keep Namma Bengaluru Safe in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is issued on 10th June 2020 for information of all religious places/places of worship and all citizens in the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.


B H Anil Kumar IAS 10/6/2020

Commissioner,
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

BBMP Bulletin <http://bbmp.gov.in/covid19bulletins>

FAQs <https://covid19.bbmpgov.in/pages/faqs>

Helplines 080 2266 0000 / 94806 85888



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