



## Perahara

Perahara is an event which carries historical, cultural and religious significance for participants. The event encourages mixing of diverse groups of people, and constitutes a high-risk public activity in the current situation, therefore on-site spectators must be severely restricted.

### Specific message/Instructions

#### For the management/organizers

- All volunteers / performers should be oriented on the relevant personal protection and precautions to be taken; respiratory etiquette (cover mouth and nose with elbow when sneezing/coughing, avoiding frequent touching of face), avoiding unnecessary contact with frequently touched surfaces and objects, hand hygiene, physical distancing (whenever possible), and correct way of wearing masks (when required)
- Prior approval and assurance for compliance is required for all events being organized. Obtain permission and advice from relevant stakeholders (Medical, police department, local authority etc.)
- The Perahara organizers should establish a health monitoring system and appoint a person/team to look into the health and safety aspects. This will be to monitor the adherence of participants/ volunteers / Perahara performers on COVID-19 preventive measures.
- Volunteers /performers should be verbally screened for fever and/or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, sore throat) at the entrance and thermometers may be used to check for fever but are not essential. If temperature is to be checked at the entrance, non-contact infra-red devices are preferred, and responsible person/team must be trained on their proper use
- Decide and make a proper plan on the duration, time of the day, and number of participants going to allow to the temple/ kovil/ church facilitating COVID-19 preventive measures.
- To avoid unnecessary gatherings, the route of the perahara should be short and if possible, only circle around the temple/kovil/church
- Control the people flow and make sure that 1-meter physical distance is maintained, after and throughout the period of Perahara.
- Take relevant measures to avoid unnecessary gatherings, queues outside the premises, and in the seating areas. Owners of buildings/houses which provide viewing opportunities for spectators along the route of the perahara must be instructed on the preventive measures to be taken.
- Provide hand washing facilities with soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizer at the temple/kovil/church premises
- Physical distancing should be maintained by all participants, including performers wherever possible.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door handles, water dispenser taps, etc.), equipment and facilities
- Changing rooms and washrooms should be well ventilated. They must be cleaned and disinfected frequently and a cleaning chart maintained. If possible, changing washrooms should be separate from the staff and participants.
- Ensure that there is adequate space to store belongings separately (and disinfect these regularly)
- Consider use of disposable cups, utensils as much as possible
- Consumption of Alcohol is not permitted
- Unruly behaviors are not encouraged which can end up in not maintaining physical distance
- If there are street vendors, make sure they strictly adhere to the guideline for street vendors. No crowding around such vendors can be permitted.



Instructions for selected public activities/work settings for the prevention and control of COVID - 19

- The organizers should fill the provided Assurance form at commencement of work, indicating compliance with the instructions given. The original of the Assurance form should be submitted to the area Medical Officer of Health. A copy of the same should be sent to the local government authority (municipal council/ urban council/ pradeshiya sabha) and another copy should be kept with you. The organizers of the premises are responsible to ensure that the above guidelines are strictly adhered to.

**For performing artists**

- Practice good hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, proper use of face mask where needed and ensure you maintain a physical distance of at least 1 meter from others when possible
- When applying make-up, the make-up artist must wear a face mask. It is preferable for the performer to do their own make-up if possible. Make-up brushes, sponges etc. should not be shared between clients
- Wash hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer before and after each performance.
- Have a full wash and wash all your clothes as soon as you get home
- Do not touch frequently touched surfaces (door handles, water dispenser taps, etc.), equipment and facilities
- Strictly do not participate for events if you feel unwell (if you have symptoms such as fever/cough/sore throat)
- Do not loiter/crowd around in changing rooms/common areas after performances and avoid taking selfies/group photos
- Avoid shaking hands, hugging, fist bumps and high fives
- Do not share water bottles, cups or utensils with others. Avoid sharing performing equipment.
- Consumption of liquor is not permitted

**For the participants**

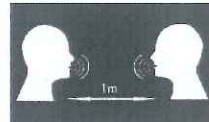
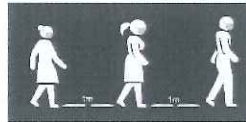
- Strictly do not come for events if you feel unwell (if you have symptoms such as fever/cough/sore throat)
- Avoid unnecessary contact with frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Practice good respiratory etiquette (cover mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when sneezing/coughing and dispose of tissue in a closed bin)
- Avoid touching your face
- Wearing of mask is needed
- Avoid unnecessary chatting with other people and taking selfies/photos
- Use only permitted area. If the permitted area restricted to the individual of family basis do not enter to the other areas
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with others such as shaking hands, high fives, fist bumps, hugs or group dancing
- Bring your own water bottle, and if refilling, make sure you do not touch the dispenser tap with your bottle mouth.
- Do not share water bottles, cups or utensils with others
- Consumption of liquor is not permitted and arriving drunk is prohibited
- Do not linger at the premises or create any form of other social gathering
- Shower and change after coming to the house. Clothes should be washed




Instructions for selected public activities/work settings for the prevention and control of COVID - 19

**Method of instructions**

- Mass media, social media
- Ensure adequate signages are available entry, exit, outside and on site, to remind participants on the precautions to be taken



  
Director General of Health Services

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