



Mountain View
Buddhist Temple

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Special Hearing on Safe Re-Opening and Economic Recovery

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

JUNE 8, 2020

The Importance of Sangha & the Karmic Effects of Our Actions



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- ▶ Reflecting on the Buddhist spirit: "May All Beings be Happy and Well" the Mountain View Buddhist Temple focuses on managing this great challenge calmly and mindfully
- ▶ Buddhism considers the following as the Three Treasures
 - ▶ Buddha – those who have attained enlightenment, exemplified by Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha
 - ▶ Dharma – the teachings of Siddhartha after his attainment of enlightenment
 - ▶ Sangha – the community of those seeking enlightenment
- ▶ We feel that like-minded belief and practice is what holds together the Sangha
 - ▶ Physical proximity, while preferable, is not necessary
 - ▶ Significant increase in use of social media and on-line services have enabled continued interconnection among our Sangha

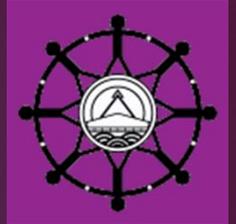
The Importance of Sangha & the Karmic Effects of Our Actions



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- ▶ Karma – is not “fate”
 - ▶ Karma is an intentional action that leads to an eventual reaction
 - ▶ The reaction may or may not be directly deterministic and will be affected by circumstances other than the sole initial action
 - ▶ This leads to uncertainty of what the future holds
 - ▶ Very much like fighting the spread of COVID-19
- ▶ Health Safety is our highest priority and we do not want to take any action that may lead to further spread of SARS-CoV-2
- ▶ Therefore, we do not plan to open our Temple for indoor, group services until Stage 3 of the CA State Resilience Roadmap is well established
 - ▶ At this time, we do not plan to hold “Small Outdoor Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings” as listed in section (5) of Appendix C-2 of the May 22 Shelter in Place Order

Preparations for Re-opening



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- ▶ At this time, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple is taking the following steps
 - ▶ Drafting protocols and procedures for re-opening following available guidance from Santa Clara County, the State of CA, and the CDC
 - ▶ Determining the time required to purchase and receive any required materials to support the protocols
 - ▶ Seeking guidance on recommended / required air filtering or other requirements for HVAC systems
 - ▶ Developing registration system to support contact tracing that also protects the privacy of registrants

**QUESTIONNAIRE RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY
PHASES OF COVID-19 AND PLANS, GUIDELINES, AND NEEDS
RELATIVE TO THE SAFE OPENING OF BUSINESSES AND OTHER
INSTITUTIONS**

Company/Organization Name: Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Industry/Sector: Religious Organization (church / temple)

Date: June 2, 2020

1. Are you open or partially open? No
 - a. Are you an essential business? No
 - b. Are you open under an exception such as: No
 - i. Outdoor Business?
 - ii. Pickup/Delivery?
 - iii. Curbside Retail?
 - iv. Food Distribution?
 - c. Have employees and customers cooperated with the health safety protocols? Yes
 - d. To your knowledge, have employees or customers become infected with COVID-19? No
2. How many of your activities can be moved outdoors? We would need to better understand health safety requirements for outdoor gatherings to ensure we have proper facilities that would allow us to implement protocols that align with those requirements and ensure safety.
3. For indoor activities:
 - a. How can social distancing be maintained at points of ingress and egress, where people normally cluster? Multiple entrances could be utilized (based on the having enough manpower to monitor each entrance) with specific queuing area identified and physically marked with recommended distancing (i.e. 6 foot spacing marked on the sidewalk leading to entrance). Attendees would be instructed to leave in groups whose maximum number would allow for proper distancing to be maintained among those exiting at the same time (number of individuals in each group would be based on the physical layout of the structure where the gathering is being held).

- b. How can employees and visitors be protected from transmission of the virus (e.g., no-touch temperature checks, hand sanitizer, masks, and face shields)? Screening at entrance point with questioning and possible non-contact temperature check. No physical items in common to be handled by attendees (i.e. Service books, handouts, incense for offering ritual). Have each attendee bring items for their personal use during services (i.e. incense for offering) if permissible by health authorities. Face shields could be worn by ministerial staff and others who are speaking to the gathering if recommended by health authorities. If recommended by health authorities, plastic or other more easily disinfect-able materials will be used to cover cloth upholstery on furniture in the facility.
- c. How will Personal Protective Equipment (such as face covering and gloves) and hand sanitizer be provided before entry? Masks required to be worn by everyone at the gathering: ministry, staff, and attendees. Hand sanitizer application required at the entrance point upon screening. Hand sanitizer also available at other areas throughout the gathering location for use during the events,
- d. Can the times of activities be staggered to reduce the amount of people gathered at any one time? Yes
- e. Can customers make appointments to gain entry while inside capacity is restricted? Yes
- f. How can social distancing be maintained inside your premises? Distancing to be monitored for movements within the gathering space throughout any events by designated temple staff. Seating will be marked to indicate minimum spacing requirements between attendees.

4. What is your plan to acquire and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (like masks and gloves) and testing to your employees?

Plan to have attendees bring their own PPE as recommended by health authorities. Temple will maintain inventory of PPE for attendee use if they have forgotten or lost their personal PPE or if their PPE does not meet the requirements defined by health authorities.

5. How can you adapt to accommodate different size gatherings that may be allowed by the Public Health officer? (Smaller gatherings are likely to be allowed before very large ones.)

Attendance will be dictated by maximum allowable set by health authorities.

Observances that would draw more attendees than maximum allowable could be split into multiple events.

6. To meet the need for possible contact tracing, how would you maintain lists of employees and visitors with their contact information for contact tracing? (It is understood that lists of attendees would only be provided in the event of an infection that needed to be traced, and then only to public health personnel trained in medical confidentiality.)

Attendance would be primarily based on pre-registration which would include information required for Contact Tracing. Pre-registered attendees would be verified at the entrance point of the gathering. If capacity allows based on health authority guidance and all other PPE requirements are met, “drop-in” attendees would be admitted only if they also agree to comply with Contact Tracing requirements and their name would then be added to the attendee list for the event.

7. In order to assist safe and productive re-opening, what are your needs relative to:

a. Regulation? Continuous communication from the County regarding the specifics of the regulations being released. Specific guidance on HVAC requirements for public health safety and information on how to know if contact tracing becomes required from our Temple events.

b. Licensure? N/a

c. Childcare? Protocols regarding Dharma School (Sunday School classes) need to be developed and approved. Plan to model these protocols in alignment with public education classroom regulations.

d. Housing? N/a

e. Digital Inclusion? no additional needs identified at this time

f. Commute-Free Working? n/a

8. If you have been opened or partially opened, what challenges have you experienced? N/a

9. If you have been opened or partially opened, how has the community's adherence and response to the COVID health safety protocols been? N/a



Mountain View Buddhist Temple

575 N. Shoreline Boulevard Mountain View, California 94043-3102

Phone: 650-964-9426 Fax: 650-964-6159

Safety Protocols for Indoor Services – June 04, 2020

Scope:

In order to provide an environment that supports the health safety of our members, our visitors, our ministerial staff, our lay staff and volunteers, and our surrounding communities, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple has outlined the following protocols that will be followed for every indoor service to be held in its facilities at 575 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA.

Preparation:

- Cleaning and disinfecting of the facility will be performed prior to every service per recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance
 - Remove or isolate items and surfaces that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected
- Remove all commonly handled materials such as service books and programs
- Ensure ventilation systems are operating properly and circulation of outdoor air is optimized based on best available recommendations and confirm proper operation prior to every service
- To promote social distancing, install physical guides, such as floor markings at entry and exit areas as well as seating locations. These markings will be inspected to ensure those guides are in good condition prior to every service
- Set up hand sanitizing stations at entry/exit points and at other areas within the facility for use during the service
- Define a pre-registration system (which includes attestation to a health screening questionnaire) to control maximum number of attendees within CDC and CDPH guidance and proactively collect information required for contact tracing (to be provided to health authorities only if it is necessary)
- Procure and maintain required inventory of cleaning and disinfecting supplies, face coverings, gloves, hand sanitizers, non-contact temperature measurement device, face shields and other materials required to follow these protocols
- Train all ministerial, lay, and volunteer staff on all safety protocols

Prior to Each Service:

- All attendees will pre-register and registration will close when maximum allowable attendance (based on applicable guidance at that date) has been reached
 - Registrants will be informed not to attend if they have had any travel outside of the Northern California area in the last two weeks
 - Registrants will be informed not to attend if they are feeling any symptoms of COVID-19
 - Registrants will be informed they must provide their own face covering and wear it throughout the duration of the service
 - Information to enable contact tracing if such a need were to occur will be required with each registration
- A Service Protocol Leader will be identified for each service to manage compliance to all Safety Protocols for that service



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- All ministerial staff and volunteers will meet with the Service Protocol Leader prior to opening of the facility for service to perform health checks (i.e. answer health screening questionnaire to identify possible COVID-19 symptoms, measure each persons' temperature), ensure face covering (and other protective items if needed) are properly worn, and assign specific duties
- Those who exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms or have a temperature in excess of 100° F will be required to leave the facilities

During Each Service:

- Entrances will be monitored to ensure social distancing practices are being followed
- Screening stations will be set up at each entrance with waiting locations clearly marked with appropriate spacing to maintain social distancing per CDC and CDPH guidelines.
 - People will be asked not to congregate at the entrance area if all marked waiting locations are occupied
 - A trained volunteer will be assigned to monitor the waiting areas at entrances to ensure social distancing practices are being maintained
- At the entrance screening station, attendees will have their registration information confirmed (including health screening questionnaire), temperature measured, and face covering confirmed to meet CDC and CDPH guidance
 - Anyone that exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms will not be allowed to enter and will be asked to leave the facilities
 - Anyone that has a temperature in excess of 100° F will not be allowed to enter and will be asked to leave the facilities
 - Anyone that has traveled outside of the Northern California area in the last two weeks will not be allowed to enter and will be asked to leave the facilities
 - If their face covering does not meet guidance, then the Temple may provide one if available. If no face covering is available, the attendee will not be allowed to enter and will be asked to leave the facilities
 - Attendee will be instructed to use a hand sanitizer station upon being admitted into the facility for service
- Ushers will assist attendees to find seating that maintains social distancing
 - Social distancing of everyone, including members of common households, will be maintained based on applicable guidance on the date of the service
- Sutra Chanting and group recitations among the congregation will be discontinued from services at this time
- At conclusion of service, attendees will remain seated until Ushers instruct them when and how to exit the facility
 - The number of attendees exiting at the same time will be limited to maintain social distancing
- No food or drink will be provided following the service at this time
- Small group (i.e. discussion groups and youth groups) meetings sometimes held following services will be not be allowed at this time and instead be directed towards using non-in-person meeting arrangements



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Following Each Service:

- Clean and disinfect the facility per recommendations from CDC and CDPH guidance
- Inspect all heavy traffic areas for any issues that may require cleaning or repair beyond standard cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- Inspect and resupply hand sanitizer stations
- Review inventory of cleaning and disinfecting supplies, face coverings, gloves, hand sanitizers, non-contact temperature measurement device, face shields and other materials required to follow these protocols and inform Service Protocol Leader of any restocking requirements

From: Chavez, Cindy <Cindy.Chavez@bos.sccgov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:14 AM

To: John Arima <john.arima@gmail.com>; Marjanovic, Maja <Maja.Marjanovic@BOS.SCCGOV.ORG>

Cc: Wapenski, Martha <martha.wapenski@ceo.sccgov.org>; Papia Gambelin <pbg@platinumadvisors.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: June 8 Board of Supervisors Special Hearing

John,

Great feedback!

Cindy

From: John Arima <john.arima@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 7:48 AM

To: Marjanovic, Maja <Maja.Marjanovic@BOS.SCCGOV.ORG>; Chavez, Cindy <Cindy.Chavez@bos.sccgov.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: June 8 Board of Supervisors Special Hearing

Hello Maja & Cindy,

After reviewing what some of our religious peer organizations presented yesterday and discussing with some others at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple (MVBT), if not too late we would like to add one additional input.

We believe that the idea that capacity of facilities should be increased based on the comparison to capacity guidance of retail establishments is not valid for religious services. The reason we feel it is not a valid comparison is because the length of time there is direct (though socially distanced) contact with others is longer in a religious service than in a typical retail establishment in today's current norms. The CDPH guidance does suggest shortening the length of services to decrease transmission risk, but the language is not specific and not strongly worded. We at the MVBT feel that the organizations requesting increased capacities are not considering the length of time factor because of the lack of specific guidance.

This brings me back to our primary request, which is specific guidance on critical factors. We had specified facilities HVAC in our presentation but now we would like to add length of time factors to have more specific guidance provided as well.

Thank you again for hosting these panels so these issues can be vetted and drive to the best solutions possible given the situation we are in.

John

On Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 10:56 AM John Arima <john.arima@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Maja and Supervisor Chavez,

Thank you for including the Mountain View Buddhist Temple in today's hearing.

Please let me know if there is any immediate follow up you need from us.
We hope that our concern about getting more specific guidance on buildings, especially HVAC is understood.
We look forward to seeing how the results of our collective efforts move us all forward safely.
thank you,
John

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 10:20 AM Marjanovic, Maja <Maja.Marjanovic@bos.sccgov.org> wrote:

Dear Panelists,

Thank you for your participation on the June 8 Board of Supervisors Special Hearing panel on safe operations of faith-based institutions and delivery of services. I look forward to receiving your PPT slides (no more than a handful please), draft protocols and filled out questionnaire tomorrow by noon. Please also let me know in your email your title and your organization's name.

Your panel will be heard around 9:30 on Monday. Clerk of the Board will be in touch with you on how to join the meeting. They will also be operating your PPT slides.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Kindly,

Maja

Maja Marjanovic, Director of Strategic Initiatives

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