


**From:** Michael Shaw michael.shaw@multicultural.nsw.gov.au   
**Subject:** FW: Exemption request from Hindu Council  
**Date:** 28 July 2021 at 6:24 PM  
**To:** Rama Athreiya vedasabha@gmail.com

MS

Hi Rama,

Please see below the question I have replied seeking clarification for you.

I will keep you posted. I hope this helps you in the short term until we receive clarification.

Kind regards,

Mike



**Michael Shaw**

Director Community and Policy

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**From:** Michael Shaw <michael.shaw@multicultural.nsw.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 July 2021 6:21 PM

**To:** MOH-COVID-MassGatherings <MOH-COVID-MassGatherings@health.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Exemption request from Hindu Council

Hi Paul, Eliza,

Thanks for your email and consideration of the request raised by the Clergy and Pandit Rama.

Can I confirm that based on the below highlighted statement that a centralised location/facility (and not the home of the Principal Mourner) used specifically and exclusively for religious purposes and in this case, post cremation rites, can be used for memorial services providing it does not exceed 10 people, excluding the person conducting the service?

Clarification and confirmation of this will be welcomed by the Hindu Clergy and allow them to complete their funeral rites, according to their Canon Law.

Kind regards and thank you for your time on this matter.

Kind regards,

Mike



**Michael Shaw**

Director Community and Policy



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**From:** MOH-COVID-MassGatherings <[MOH-COVID-MassGatherings@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-COVID-MassGatherings@health.nsw.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 July 2021 5:29 PM

**To:** Michael Shaw <[michael.shaw@multicultural.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michael.shaw@multicultural.nsw.gov.au)>

**Cc:** MOH-COVID-MassGatherings <[MOH-COVID-MassGatherings@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-COVID-MassGatherings@health.nsw.gov.au)>;

**Subject:** Exemption request from Hindu Council

Dear Mike

The exemption request made on behalf of the Pandit Rama of the Australian Council of Hindu Clergy was assessed by a senior NSW Health Medical Officer acting as a delegate of the Minister for Health and Medical Research. I wish to advise that after careful consideration, the request for an exemption has not been approved.

We acknowledge this is not the result they had hoped for. This is a necessary action to protect all people of NSW, including those who would be at grave risk should they contract COVID-19. Gatherings and movement should be limited as much as possible, and face-to-face engagements postponed where possible whilst the stay-at-home directions are in place, so that we can get on top of this outbreak.

Under [Public Health \(COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions\) Order 2021](#), people in Greater Sydney must not leave home without a [reasonable excuse](#). A reasonable excuse includes to provide pastoral care if you are a priest, minister of religion or member of a religious order. Generally, visiting another person is not a reasonable excuse to leave home. Certain exceptions apply including where the visit is for work, to provide care or assistance, including personal care, to a vulnerable person and for compassionate reasons.

Only **one visitor** may visit a household to fulfil carers' responsibilities or to provide care or assistance, or for compassionate reasons.

Certain premises, including places of public worship have been directed to close to the public except for the purposes of a funeral or memorial service, or a gathering following a funeral or memorial service, at which there are no more than 10 persons, excluding the person conducting the service and any other person necessary for the conduct and preparation of the service.

The requirements of the [Public Health Order](#) are necessary to protect the health and wellbeing of the whole community at a time when there is ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in Sydney.

Anyone with even the mildest of cold-like symptoms is urged to get tested without delay and isolate until a negative result is received. Venues of concern are being identified as case investigations continue, and the list of venues is continuing to be updated. Everyone should check the [NSW Health website](#) regularly and follow the relevant health advice if they have been to a venue of concern.

We would appreciate if you could please advise the Hindu Clergy of this decision

We would appreciate if you could please advise the final stage of this decision.

Kind regards  
Eliza

COVID-19 Policy Team | **Public Health Response Branch**  
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[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



Visit the [NSW Health website](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) for the latest information on COVID-19.



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