



### GUIDELINES FOR DAILY SALAH AND THE JUMUAH SALAH

As Salaamu Alaikum,

In light of the statement made by the Prime Minister regarding gatherings/crowds over the amount of 25 people, many Muslims, especially Imams have requested Islamic guidelines on this issue. In this regard, we wish to state the following:-

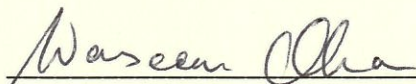
1. The statement made by the Prime Minister did not tell Muslims that Mosques should be closed for prayers or worship. Instead, it instructed religious bodies to avoid a congregation of more than 25 people and to limit gatherings. Therefore, it will be totally wrong for Muslims to close the Masjid and stop people from performing Salah in it. The Masjid is the house of Allah and it has a 'Haqq' (right) over Muslims (of the area) to have it opened for the 5 times daily Salah and for Jumuah Salah. It cannot be closed for these, except there is a valid reason in the Shariah or a law of the Government. Alhamdulillah, so far, there has been no such law from the Government (that tells the Muslims to close their Masjid), and there is no valid reason in the Shariah also, for closing the Masjid. Therefore, doing so is extremely wrong.
2. In order to follow the guidelines given by the Government, the management/Imam of the Masjid should divide the congregation of those coming for the 5 daily Salah and the Jumuah Salah into smaller groups not consisting more than 25 people. In doing this, the following steps can be taken:-
  - (i) Anyone who has the virus or symptoms of the virus must be asked to stay away from attending the Masjid.
  - (ii) Elderly Muslims, who are at risk to contract the virus, should be asked to avoid the gathering, but they cannot be stopped from the Masjid if they wish to attend.
  - (iii) Young children who are under the age of puberty should be asked to stay away from attending the Masjid, since it is not essential upon them to attend Salah in congregation or the Jumuah Salah.
  - (iv) Women should be asked to avoid attending the Masjid for Jumuah Salah since it is not compulsory upon them.  
With the above, there will be some decrease in the crowd.
  - (v) There are a number of Masajid in which the amount of Muslims attending the 5 daily Salah is less than 25. They can continue with their daily Salah as normal since they are not directly affected.





- (vi) Those Masjid whose attendees for the daily Salah are more than 25, can continue to have their daily Salah as normal by having the congregational Salah in smaller groups at different times in the Masjid (within the permissible time of Salah). Each group can have a maximum of 25 people, and the members of the Jamaat should be notified of the different times for the congregational Salah.
- (vii) In case of the Jumuah Salah, this must be held in the Masjid and there is absolutely no reason for it to be cancelled. Alhamdulillah, until this time, the Government has not stopped any Masjid from having Jumuah Salah. Therefore, it will be extremely wrong and unjust on the part of anyone to close the Masjid for Jumuah Salah, while putting the 'blame' on the Government. The instruction given by the Government in no way means to 'stop the Jumuah prayer'. As such, the Imam/management of the Masjid should divide the crowd which comes for Jumuah Salah in smaller groups not exceeding 25, and fix separate timings for the Salah and Khutbah to be done in 2,3, or 4 different times within the permissible time for Jumuah Salah. Each Jumuah Khutbah and Salah must be done by separate qualified people in its respective time, and the Muslims should be informed of these timings. In this way, Muslims will be able to fulfil the essential duty of Jumuah Salah by performing it in the Masjid, without disregarding any instruction given by the Government.
- (viii) Those attending the Masjid should be informed to perform their Sunnah, Nafil and Witr Salah at home. They should only attend the Masjid for the Fardh Salah and for the Khutbah and Salah on the Jumuah day.
- Therefore, with these guidelines, gatherings at the Masjid would be limited, since people would only come for the Fardh Salah which will last only a few minutes for each time of Salah, and the gatherings would also be small in accordance to what is stated by the Government.

We are reminded that these adjustments are only for a short while, and the problems that we are presently facing will soon come to an end, Insha Allah. We must not panic and go into a state of anxiety, but instead, take preventive measures and pray to Allah for protection. As Muslims, we believe that everything is under the sole control of Allah, and only that which is decreed by Allah, will come to pass. May Allah protect us and everyone from the harms of the virus, and enable us to fulfill our duties as Muslims in the best possible manner.

  
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