

Islamic Community Center of Des Plaines

480 Potter Road, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016 • Phone: (847) 824-1100 • Fax: (847) 824-1041

March 22nd, 2020
Rajab 26, 1441 AH

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST BENEFICENT, THE MOST MERCIFUL.

As-salamu Alaykum,

In light of recent events pertaining to the widespread pandemic of COVID-19, ICCD has decided to address a series of concerns and frequently asked questions by the community.

As COVID-19 is rising day-by-day and now, unfortunately, affecting our Chicagoland Muslim community. We must heed the advice and take all the precautionary measures outlined by our state government and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as to adapt through the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Alhumdulillah, as of March 22nd, there have been no positive cases reported from any member of Islamic Community Center of Des Plaines. However, with recent news updates and information provided by healthcare authorities, there have been numerous positive cases of COVID-19 in our surrounding areas.

With the rapidly developing situation, ICCD has made arrangements and would like to keep the community informed by using this opportunity to spiritually reflect over these adverse times. We also request the support and cooperation of our community members.

Together, as a community, along with the will & help of Allah (swt) we will endure through these difficult and unforeseen times. – Inshallah.

– ICCD Management

May Allah (swt) Protect Us All. Ameen.

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During difficult times, difficult decisions are made.

Daily Salah

For the safety and well-being of our community, as well as being in accordance with the “Stay-at-Home Order” given by Gov. J.B Pritzker it is with a heavy-heart that we announced the suspension of congregational Salah (prayer) at ICCD until further notice.

The parking lot gate will remain closed at all times, only authorized personals are allowed on the premises to manage any administrative activities.

Salah should still be continued at home. We suggest family members to make congregational prayers at home and ask to remember the community in your Duas.

Friday Prayer – Jumm’ah Salah

With keeping both the significance of Jumm’ah and well-being of our community in mind, ICCD has also announced the suspension of Jumm’ah Salah until further notice.

In accordance with Islamic Law, if Jumm’ah is not offered in congregation then Salahtul Dhuhur should be prayed in its place. Although the Friday prayer is not being prayed in congregation, Friday is still a blessed day in Islam, therefore, we encourage everyone to **increase in dua and salawaat (Durood) upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).**

Narrated by Abu Huraira: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "There is an hour (opportune time) on Friday and if a Muslim gets it while praying and asks something from Allah, then Allah will definitely meet his demand." And he (the Prophet) pointed out the shortness of that time with his hands.

– Sahih Bukhari Volume 002, Book 013, Hadith Number 057.

The decision to suspend the congregational prayer as well as the Friday (Jumm’ah) prayer is made with the intent to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of our community members. Risk of transmission and the risk to one’s own health was a compelling factor in suspending the prayers.

Salahtul Janaza (Funeral)

If need be, ICCD will make arrangements for Salahtul Janaza (Funeral Prayer). Please contact the ICCD Management or our Imam to have the arrangements made.

During the time of Janaza a limited amount of people will be allowed to attend, again, to help reduce the risk of transmission and infection.

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Praying Salahtul Jumm'ah (Friday) Prayer at Home

To limit the risk of infection and transmission we suggest praying Dhuhur at home or to make small congregational Jumm'ahs at residences, but please ensure members participating in congregational prayer are not among the following because they are more at risk of being infected:

- The elderly (typically above the age of 55)
- Immunocompromised
- Anyone who is pre-diagnosed with any form of breathing disorders
- Those who suffer from multiple chronic diseases

Minimum Conditions of Jumu'ah:

- Four (4) mature males
 - An Imam (1)
 - Three (3) followers
- Seek permission to join the small congregation out of respect

Performing Jumu'ah Salah:

1. Call the first Adhan.
2. Perform the four Sunnah before Jumu'ah.
3. Call the second Adhan while Imam faces the followers
4. After the Adhan, the Imam should stand up facing the congregation
5. Recite the first Khutbah and then sit down facing the congregation.
6. Then the Imam should stand up and recite the second Khutbah
7. After the Iqama, the Imam should lead the two Rakats of Jumu'ah Salah

Please check our ICCD website for the Arabic Khutbah (PDF)

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ICCD Community Efforts

In challenging and adverse situations, working together by being united is the foundation for persevering. We at ICCD are working hard to uphold and manage the responsibilities of the community as well as the obligations we have towards the House of Allah. At these times we ask for the utmost cooperation and patience.

There are many opinions and beneficial suggestion that are made by both the management and community members, and we are doing what is best to accommodate all obligations.

We also ask for the following contributions to be made by our community members in efforts to manage through these difficult times:

(I) To rely on authentic sources for any further announcements of ICCD

ICCD currently has two sources in which we announce any updates pertaining to our Masjid:

1. ICCD Website – www.iccofdesplaines.com
2. ICCD Twitter Page – twitter.com/iccdmasjid

ICCD has no official WhatsApp or Facebook Platform.

(II) Donate for Bait-ul-Maal – Sadaqa

With the pandemic rise and Executive Order in response to COVID-19 our community members are directly affected. We, as a community, should not forget some of the unfortunate people in our community who may be suffering a loss in their source of income and those who are recipients of Bait-ul-Maal

“Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah, then do not make their spending followed by boasting about favor, or with causing hurt,- they have their reward with their Lord and there is no fear for them nor shall they grieve.” – *Surah Baqarah (2:262)*

With the suspension of Salah and Jumm’ah, collecting donations to help those in need has become constrained. We humbly ask and encourage everyone to donate through the online PayPal donation system found on our website either by the PayPal button found on the homepage or by the direct web address: www.iccofdesplaines.com/make-a-donation.html

(III) ICCD Sterilization

To ensure the safety and health of all our members, staff, and students ICCD Management is in contact with companies who specialize in sterilization, we will conduct a thorough process of disinfecting the entire building prior to reopening for regular prayers and school.

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COVID-19 – OUR ISLAMIC & CIVIC OBLIGATIONS

Caring for our Neighbors

Islam, being a religion founded on compassion and peace, we hold the respect of our neighbors to a high regard.

Ibn 'Abbas told Ibn az-Zubayr, "I heard the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, say, 'A man is not a believer who fills his stomach while his neighbor is hungry.'" (Sahih: Al-Albani Al-Adab Al-Mufrad 112)

Caring for our Elderly

From the way of our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) we are also responsible to respect and take of our elders

Narrated by Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-'As : The Prophet (PBUH) said: Those who do not show mercy to our young ones and do not realize the right of our elders are not from us. *Abu Dawud Book 036, Hadith Number 4925*

From these ahadiths and the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) we can derive the importance of caring for our neighbors and elders, therefore, we must reach out to our neighbors and elders whether muslim or non-muslim to ensure their well-being and to be of any assistance in any way we can.

Abiding by the Law of the Land

In a nationwide crisis, being compliant to the rules & regulations in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 is not only critical but also from the teachings of our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Narrated by Ibn 'Umar The Prophet (PBUH) said: The Muslim is obliged to obey (the ruler) whether he likes it or not, unless he is commanded to commit an act of disobedience. If he is commanded to commit a sin, then he should neither listen nor obey. *Sunan Ibn Majah Book 24, Hadith Number 2974*

Current Illinois Regulations with regards to COVID-19:

[https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/21288-Gov. Pritzker Stay at Home Order.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/21288-Gov._Pritzker_Stay_at_Home_Order.pdf)

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COVID-19 Protection Guidelines from CDC¹

1. Know How it Spreads

- a. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- b. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- c. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - i. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - ii. Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- d. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

2. Take Steps to Protect Yourself

- a. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- b. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- c. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- d. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- e. Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community.

3. Take Steps to Protect Others

- a. Stay home if you're sick or seek medical help
- b. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- c. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- d. Use protective gear: facemasks
- e. Clean and Disinfect daily

For more information on better protecting yourself and those around you please see the footnote below.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

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Seeking Protection from COVID-19 through Qur'an & Sunnah

Cleanliness is a significant portion of our religion, and those who take time to purify themselves are among the people whom Allah (swt) loves. From the teachings of our Prophet (PBUH), we can also decrease the risk of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 through our regular act of purification, wudu (Ablution)

(I) Wudu

This act of worship consists of washing our hands, mouth, nose, face, wiping the head, ears, and washing the feet. When we collectively come together to perform wudu multiple times in a given day, it builds an environment of sanitation as well as significantly decreases the risk of infectious diseases.

(II) Covering of the face while sneezing

A common practice today, this gesture was taught to us by our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to help prevent the spread of diseases.

(III) Dua

The strongest weapon a believer has against any calamity, illness, or hardship is Dua. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us duas to make during distress, including those that should be made during the spread of diseases:

Each Dua should be recited three times each morning and evening

(1) Dua for Protection from all major disease

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْبَرَصِ وَالْجُنُونِ وَالْجَذَامِ وَمِنْ سَيِّئِ الْأَسْقَامِ

Oh Allah, I seek refuge in you from vitiligo, madness, leprosy and all major illnesses

(2) Dua for Protection against Calamity

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي لَا يَضُرُّ مَعَ اسْمِهِ شَيْءٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ؕ

*In the name of Allah with whose name nothing is harmed on earth nor in the heavens and He is The All-Seeing, The All-Knowing.*¹

¹ Whoever recites this three times in the morning will not be afflicted by any calamity before evening. And whoever recites this three times in the evening will not be afflicted by any calamity before morning. [Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud]

(3) Ayatul Kursi

Surah Baqarah Verse: 255 (Qur'an: 2:255)

May Allah (swt) Protect Us All. Ameen.