



Islamic Center of Maryland

Paving the Way to Enlightened Hearts!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَصَلِّ اللَّهُمَّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ
وَبَعْدُ: السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

The ICM Board of Trustees along with the Office of the Imam have been monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and have been working together with other Islamic organizations and medical professionals in the area to define the best strategy to both 1) follow our religion in a way that is authentic and pleasing to Allah in the context of the crisis at hand and 2) follow all state and federal regulations regarding steps necessary to contain it.

As such, the Board had a three-hour meeting on March 12 to discuss options moving forward, with a unanimous vote to suspend Jumu'ah prayers at all ICM locations, as well as programs which gather people, including the Sunday School, Friday Night Programs, Hakeem Programs, etc. The discussion of whether or not to cancel the regular congregational (jama'at) prayers was a matter which was eventually agreed to allow to continue in the immediate future, but which would be redressed as the situation develops.

Even within the last few days a clearer picture has emerged regarding the need to take tougher action to limit the spread of COVID-19, both for the sake of our community members, but also to ensure the healthcare system is not overwhelmed with cases that require hospitalization and could result in the loss of life.

After much soul searching, and with the guidance of expert doctors and religious scholars from organizations such as American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP), The Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA), the Islamic Society of North America, and the Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA), the Board came to the decision that congregational prayers should also be suspended until further notice. This decision was not an easy one, but one which we pray that Allah accepts based on the clear need to preserve Human life.

﴿ وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا ﴾

"..And whoever saves a soul - it is as if they have saved mankind entirely..."

(Surat Al-Ma'iyadh, Verse 32)

We ask you all for patience with this test, and to increase your prayers, fasting, reading Quran, and prayers upon our Beloved Prophet ﷺ in your homes and wherever you may

be. Please take all necessary steps to protect yourselves and others from contact with COVID-19 or other illnesses. May Allah allow us to return safe and sound to His houses of worship, and allow us to stay together as brothers and sisters in the days and nights of Ramadan. Ameen!

ICM Office of the Imam and Board of Trustees

Rajab 19, 1441

March 14, 2020

Do you know of a resource that we need to be aware of? Please send an email to Comm@icomd.org

AS GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:

- PLEASE STAY HOME, if you have flu like symptom (fever, cough, sneeze, runny nose, headache, joint pains etc..).
- PLEASE STAY HOME, if you have recently traveled to and from affected area.
- PLEASE STAY HOME, if you have been in contact with anyone affected by COVID-19 Virus.
- DO NOT shake hands, instead just say salam verbally.
- PLEASE wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds several times throughout the day.
- PLEASE renew your Wudu (Ablution) before each prayer.
- PLEASE sneeze and cough into a tissue or your arm and wash your hands with soap and water (for 20 seconds) right after.
- According to CDC, elderly (65+) are at high-risk of contracting the coronavirus. For their well-being, we recommend them to stay home.