

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالصَّٰلِحِينَ وَالصَّٰبِغِينَ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾

SAHIH INTERNATIONAL

Indeed, those who believed and those who were Jews or Christians or Sabeans [before Prophet Muhammad] - those [among them] who believed in Allah and the Last Day and did righteousness -

Surah 2:62 will have their reward with their Lord, and no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve.

The Florida Conference of Muslim American (FCMA) has received several inquiries regarding the plan of the Florida Muslim Community in association with the Ministry of Imam W. Deen Mohammed to manage the impact of Covid-19 (Coronavirus). As the FCMA Convener, I have consulted with healthcare experts, government officials and hosted an emergency call with the FCMA State Imams represented by Imam Dr. Nasir Ahmed, Imam Hatim Hamidullah, Imam Yahya Abdullah, Imam Delacie "Ummah" Phillips, and Imam Rashad Mujahid. The following statement is a joint recommendation of FCMA and the State Imams.

Given the severe and stealth nature of this pandemic, the following steps are to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. These recommendations are not by any means a suspension of the Ibadah, but a series of precautions to sustain the safety of our community and the society at large. Upon several consultations with Muslim Healthcare experts, religious leaders and government officials, it has become clear that simply limiting the elderly and sick from attending the congregations will not suffice the need to curb this outbreak. If aggressive measures for social distancing are not taken immediately, the number of new cases may continue to double every 48 hours as it did in the past 10 days, both in the United States as well as Florida. Until further:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Limit Congregational Juma Prayers for the next three weeks beginning Friday March 27, 2020 through Friday April 10, 2020 to no more than 10 people, as per CDC Guidelines. Where possible, consider Live Streaming your Jumah Prayers for the maximum benefit of the Believers.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Should a Masjid choose to allow individuals to perform daily prayers, they must observe the following guidelines:

1. Advise elderly, sick, women, and children to avoid visiting the masjid.
2. If you are infected or you suspect that you are infected, you must get tested immediately and practice self-quarantine. (For more coronavirus information, call the Florida information line at 866-779-6121 or visit Florida Department of Health's website.)
3. Masjid management should implement safe hygienic practices including disinfecting the prayer area, door knobs, light switches, wudu area, mics, Imam podiums, etc.
4. The virus can last on surfaces for as long as 9 days. This includes the prayer mats in the masjid. Please advise congregants to bring their own prayer mats and encourage them to wash them regularly.
5. Avoid shaking hands, embracing, and any other form of physical contact.
6. Encourage covering mouth when sneezing or coughing using elbow or tissues. Dispose of tissue properly.
7. Advise congregants to perform frequent hand washing especially before entering and after leaving the masjid.
8. Take the necessary steps to boost your Immune System. Consider taking Blackseed Oil, Golden Seal, Cayenne Pepper, Echinacea, Elderberry, Vitamin C and D3 as recommended by your Healthcare professional

May Allah accept our prayers and efforts!

Wali Salahuddin, Convener; Martha Nailah Abdullah, Secretary; Abdul Salaam Hameed, Treasurer