



## CONGREGATIONAL SALAH DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

### Question:

The Darul Iftaa has been inundated with queries from the public regarding congregational Salah in view of the Government 100-persons restriction to control the Covid-19 virus. Kindly advise.

### Answer:

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

As-salāmu ‘alaykum wa-rahmatullāhi wa-barakātuh.

At the outset, it is important to remind ourselves that a virus comes into existence only with the order and will of Almighty Allah. Submit to the will of Allah and engage in Dua and Istighfar.

Whilst there is much assumption on the actual cause of the virus, we as an Ummah should analyse the cause of the virus from the Ahadith of Rasulallah ﷺ. The following Hadith is an eye-opener and thought provoking.

عن عبد الله بن عمر قال: أَقْبَلَ عَلَيْنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - فَقَالَ " يَا مَعْشَرَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ حَمْسٌ إِذَا ابْتُلِيتُمْ بِهِنَّ وَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ أَنْ تُدْرِكُوهُنَّ لَمْ تَظْهَرِ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي قَوْمٍ قَطُّ حَتَّى يُعْلِنُوا بِهَا إِلَّا فَشَا فِيهِمُ الطَّاعُونَ وَالْأَوْجَاعُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَكُنْ مَصَّتْ فِي أَسْلَافِهِمُ الَّذِينَ مَضَوْا (سنن ابن ماجه: ٤٠١٩)

*“Abdullah ibn Umar (Radiyahallahu Anhu) narrates that Rasulallah ﷺ turned to us and said: ‘O Muhajirun, Immorality never appears among a people to such an extent that they commit it openly, but plagues and diseases that were never known among the predecessors will spread among them.’ (Ibn Majah: 4019)*

It is time for us as an Ummah to introspect, make Tawbah and avoid all forms of immoralities such as adultery, fornication, pornography and abuse of electronic devices. Almighty Allah says:

اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا (نوح: ١٠)

*“Seek forgiveness from your Lord. Indeed, He is Ever-forgiving.” (Nub: 10)*

Shari’ah also advises us to take precautions during a plague and virus. Hereunder are some suggested precautions:

- Perform wudhu at home
- Limit physical interaction with people at the Masjid
- The Masjid should be regularly cleaned and disinfected
- Individuals that are infected or show symptoms of the virus should not attend the Masjid or perform Salah in congregation. Likewise, the elderly and those with weak immune systems will be excused from performing Salah in the Masjid or with congregation

We should take note that Shari’ah has also emphasized performing Salah with Jamaa’ah (congregation). Those that are healthy and strong should ensure that they perform Salah with Jamaa’ah (congregation).

Also, bear in mind the 100-person restriction from the Government of South Africa. Accordingly, Fardh and Jumuah Salah may be performed in smaller congregations.

**Mufti Ebrahim Desai.**

