

# FAQ COVID - 19

## SHAR'I RULINGS & GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONAL SALAH

The Darul Iftaa has been inundated with queries from many Ulama, Imams and the general public on various issues pertaining to Salah in the Masajid and their concerns on the suspension of Jum'ah Salah in certain places due to Covid-19.

We have prepared a brief FAQ for ease of reference. In issues of Ibadah, the interest of Deen should be considered in all our decisions.

**Mufti Ebrahim Desai (Darul Iftaa Mahmudiyyah, South Africa)**

## Q&A

**Q: Will it be permissible to completely close down Masajid due to the fear of spreading of Covid-19?**

**A:** The present circumstances do not warrant closing of Masajid due to Covid-19. The Masajid should be kept open for Salah and the Zikr (remembrance) of Allah. Allah Ta'ala says:

فِي بُيُوتِ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا لَكُمْ آيَاتٍ يَوْمَ قُنُوتِهِمْ يَسْمَعُونَ وَأَلَّا يَصَلُّوا وَلَا يَذْكُرُوا فِيهَا اسْمَهُ يُشْرِكُ بِهِ فَهِيَ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا لَكُمْ آيَاتٍ حَسْرَةٌ يَوْمَ يُنْفَخُ الْكَوْكَبُ (النور: ٣٦)

Translation: ... in the houses (Masajid) which Allah has ordered to be raised and that His name be mentioned (Zikr) therein; praising Him in them (the Masjid) in the mornings and the evenings.  
(An- Nur: 36)

**Q: What will be the Shar'i ruling with regards to encouraging people to read Salah at their homes? Or are we supposed to encourage people to frequent the Masjid and turn our attention to Allah Ta'ala?**

**A:** Shariah has emphasized on performing Salah with congregation. It is a sin not to perform Salah in congregation without a valid excuse in Shariah.

However, Individuals that are infected or show symptoms of the virus should not attend the Masjid and public places. It is incumbent upon them to stay away from the Masjid until they are cured of the virus. Likewise, the elderly and those with weak immune systems will be excused from performing Salah with congregation.

**Q: With regards to the current virus, can the Imams shorten the Salah? Please note some Imams perform Salah with haste, thus not completing the Ruku and Sujood correctly and nullifying the Salah.**

**A:** It is incorrect to rush through the Salah without fulfilling the Ruk'u, Sujud, Qaumah and Jalsah properly. If the Wajibat are not fulfilled, the Salah will not be valid. It is very unfortunate to receive complaints of some Imams performing four Rak'at Fardh Salah within 3 minutes. How can we expect the Mercy of Allah to descend in such trying times when our Fardh Salah is also compromised?

**Q Some elderly people have a habit of making their Tilawah and Zikr in the Masjid, should they be restricted?**

**A:** As stated earlier, the Masjid should be left open for people who wish to make Tilawah and Zikr. If a few people (within legal restriction) wish to remain in the Masjid to make Tilawah and Zikr, they should not be restricted.

**Q: Should Jumuah be suspended in light of the recent government restrictions of 100-person gatherings, how should Jumuah be performed?**

**A:** We disagree with the notion that Jumuah Salah should be suspended. There is a severe warning for abandoning Jumuah Salah. See the following stern warning of Nabi ﷺ:

أَنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عُمَرَ، وَأَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ حَدَّثَاهُ، أَنَّهُمَا سَمِعَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، يَقُولُ عَلَى أَعْوَادٍ مِنْهُ: لَيَنْتَهِيَنَّ أَقْوَامٌ عَنْ وَدْعِهِمُ الْجُمُعَاتِ، أَوْ لَيَخْتِمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ، ثُمَّ لَيَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ (صحيح مسلم: ٨٦٥)

Translation: Ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurairah (Radiyahallahu Anhuma) narrated: We heard the Nabi ﷺ saying (while delivering Khutbah on his wooden pulpit), "People should never abandon their Jumuah Salats or else Allah will seal their hearts and then they will become from among the heedless people". (Sahih Muslim: 865)

This is a time to turn more towards Allah, we should never become heedless. In view of the current circumstances, it is permissible to perform multiple Jamaa'ah (congregations) in one Masjid and in multiple venues. It is advisable for the Musallees (worshippers) to shorten their Sunnah.

**Q: Is it permissible to perform Jumuah at the workplace, school, offices, factories, etc.?**

**A:** It is permissible to perform Jumuah at workplaces, schools, offices, factories, etc. However, there must be at least four people present for the Jumuah to be valid, the Imam and three Muqtadis (followers).

**Q: How many Adhans/Iqamah should be given if multiple congregations take place in one Masjid?**

**A:** If a Masjid performs multiple congregations, only one Adhan should be called out before the first congregation. Thereafter, only Iqamah should be performed before each congregation.

**Q: How many Adhans/Iqamah should be given if multiple Jumuahts take place in one Masjid?**

**A:** If a Masjid performs multiple Jumuahts, one Adhan should be called out once the Jumuah Salah time has set in. Thereafter, an Adhan should be called out before the Khutbah in front of the Imam for every separate Jumuah Salah.

**Q: Is it permissible to wear a mask while praying?**

**A:** It is permissible for one to cover his mouth with a mask to protect oneself from Covid-19. The administration of each Masjid may adopt any necessary precaution to safeguard the Musallees from the dangers of Covid-19.

**And Allah Ta'ala Knows Best,  
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