



# Ansar Connection

A biweekly e-newsletter of Majlis Ansarullah, USA

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We are the Helpers of Allah.

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## Your Questions, Our Answers

*Bilal Rana (Secretary Umur Amma, United States)*

### What is the best protection against this virus?

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said if a plague comes as a punishment from God those who repent and seek forgiveness will be protected. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V aba gave some practical points on disaster preparation, including homeopathy and food rationing, but then said at that time love of Allah and a personal connection with him is the best protection we have.

### Why are mosques open during a pandemic?

Other institutions and offices have also remained open for essential work, and limited their non-essential work. We, too, have kept our essential work at the mosque (salat) and limited our other work or taken them home. It is no different than the general standard we observe in society. Banks, gas stations, pharmacies, post offices, factories, and take-out food services, etc are still operational. If the government imposes further restrictions that is another matter completely, but we will not leave our mosques on our own.

### Why are children being restricted when they are fairing better with COVID-19?

Children cannot observe social distancing easily out of innocence. So while they are not harmed by the disease like the elderly are, they become vectors of its transmission and pose a risk to the congregation in that way.

### Are we being too careful?

Epidemiologists say that we are often behind where we think we are in a situation like this. The virus is spreading faster than our knowledge about it and how it works. Safety is paramount and measures taken are being taken with your best interest at heart.

### If I'm on security and an elder is angry with the policy what do I do?

While elderly are to stay home, if they disobey your authority do not engage with them in conflict. Direct them to the Sadr to de-escalate, but do not turn them away unless they are sick.

### The White House said 10 people. Why are we allowing more?

The White House urged gatherings of 10 people. The CDC, the nation's leading national public health institute, recommends gatherings be limited

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to 50 people (at this time). However, state and local governments are actually the ones responsible for issuing the official and enforceable mandates. Therefore, you should find and follow those.

**Did the Holy Prophet (sa) give us tips to reduce transmission of viruses?**

Yes. Use your right hand for clean jobs and left hand for contaminated jobs (eg. door knobs) until you can wash them both.

**How long do viruses survive on non-biological surfaces?**

Viruses can live up to 72 hours on surfaces. Be mindful of things like keys, cell phones, clothing, iPads, keyboards, and steering wheels. When you retouch these things without wiping down them you recontaminate your hands.

**I don't like being told I can't go to the mosque.**

If you cannot go to mosque because you have a cold you are earning a blessing which you would lose if you actually went in disobedience. No deed is inherently good or bad. The Holy Prophet (sa) said once a pilgrim was about to leave for Hajj but he saw his neighbor was on the brink of starvation. He used his Hajj money to feed him and his hungry family instead. That year Allah accepted his Hajj even though he could not perform it. Not only that, Allah rejected the Hajj of those who did perform Hajj but did not have the honesty of this man. Hajj is a pillar of Islam. Use this time to offer Tahajjud and congregational salat at home.

**Should we practice social-distancing during salat?**

An infectious diseases doctor said social distancing assumes socialization. He added that if you are not socializing, coughing, touching and speaking with one another you are not exposing one another to the same risks that social distancing is designed to reduce. Therefore, there's no need to create gaps between worshippers. Furthermore, we cannot make personal judgements on religious rules made by Allah. If someone feels strongly, they can remain home. Anyone coughing should not be coming to the mosque anyway.

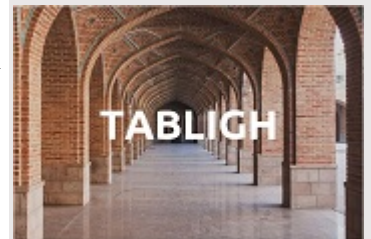
**We might have more than limitation of people. What can we do?**

If you have a large enough mosque you can designate different floors and areas to segregate gatherings and connect them via intercom or speaker phone. For example, one gathering can be upstairs, one in the basement, one in the offices, one in the guest house, etc. If it's safe and feasible, you can even have a group outside. If you must, you can designate a small salat center to off-set for those who come from far. Alternatively, as multiple service times could be offered to mitigate the size at any one give time. Please consult your local Missionary or Missionary Incharge for instructions on that practice.

**Safety Policy Update**

*Bilal Rana (Secretary Umur Amma, United States)*

Given the situation with the pandemic we recommend all Jamaat members in United States offer their congregational prayers, including Juma, at home



instead of the mosque until further notice.

While there are no congregational prayers being held, the local missionary who lives there and whomever comes to the mosque for security or maintenance checks, can offer his prayer individually. Please share this message with your local Jamaat.

May Allah Almighty make it easy for us.

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**Send us your stories of brotherhood, Ijtima memories, or any other inspiring experience that we can share with Ansar brothers via this e-newsletter.**

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Majlis Ansarullah USA



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