

Toolkit for UK Muslim Communities during the COVID-19 outbreak

as of 25 March 2020

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Asalaam alaykum, Peace be with you

1. Situation so far

- At the time of writing, 8,077 cases have been diagnosed in the UK, and sadly 422 people have died.¹ **This number is expected to significantly rise within days**, particularly affecting the elderly, as the **worldwide fatality rate for those aged over 80 years is 14.8%**²
- Public health advice is now that **all places of worship** in the UK must now temporarily close.
- Individuals must stay at home as far as possible, avoid "**non-essential**" social contact, "**unnecessary**" travel, as well as gatherings of more than two people and **keep 2m apart** in public.
- If you or anyone in your household have symptoms of coronavirus, you'll need to **self-isolate for 14 days**, which means not to leave home for any reason other than to exercise once a day.
- Around **1.5m people** in England have also been classified as "**extremely vulnerable**" because of an underlying health condition, and must avoid leaving home and face-to-face contact with others outside their household for at least 12 weeks (known as "**shielding**")

Why Muslim communities need to ACT NOW

Muslim communities are at **increased risk** compared to the general population because:

1. **Frequency** of community congregational activities for social events and religious purposes (madrasa, mosques etc.) compared to general population is higher.
2. **Elderly Muslims** who are most at risk, are culturally more likely to live in extended families (rather than nursing/residential homes), so more social mixing and thus higher chance of receiving/transmitting virus.³
3. **Health conditions** – Due to socio-economic factors, Muslims – especially the elderly – are statistically more likely to have underlying health conditions (e.g. diabetes / cardiovascular / chronic lung disease), which is another increased risk factor to the virus.
4. **Densely populated** spaces and prostration on carpets at mosques and community centres where the virus may remain infectious if not cleaned properly.
5. **Wudu** (ablution) facilities provide increased wet surfaces where virus can be harbored and are often used by a high quantity of worshippers in a short space of time.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#number-of-cases>

² <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/coronavirus-age-sex-demographics/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

What is recommended?

Muslim institutions and community members are strongly urged to act now by:

1. **Staying at Home - if you haven't already, everybody must postpone congregational activities, be it social (e.g weddings) or educational/religious (e.g mosque, madrasas etc.)**
2. **Keeping Connected - regularly keeping connected with the community via alternative means, including through Social Media / WhatsApp, volunteer phone calls or drop offs/collections etc.**
3. **Supporting - transform our institutions and mosques into hubs for mobilising volunteers to support the socially vulnerable and isolated, whilst maintaining social distancing**

We all have a public duty to protect one another from harm, and it is evident from medical, scholarly and public health advice that the **most effective way** to do this now is to **stay at home** and **avoid social contact** as much as possible. This includes all walks of life, whether social, work or the mosque, whilst ensuring the socially vulnerable / isolated receive support.

Given that some in Muslim communities are at **higher risk** for the above reasons (see Page 1), it is even more important for Muslim community members to **strictly follow public health advice** and **encourage our family members and friends to**. Only by working together can we minimise the transmission of the COVID19 disease and reduce the chances of overwhelming our NHS health care services. It is also essential to follow good hygiene practice throughout, including washing hands with water/soap or sanitiser gel for at least 20 seconds regularly. See [more hygiene advice on NHS website here](#).

Please read further down in this toolkit for more advice on specific topic areas.

As Allah (Swt) reminds us in the Quran, ***“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient.”*** (Quran, 2:155, Sahih International). Let us not forget the deeply spiritual reminders this pandemic brings, unite, pull together and leave nobody behind insha'Allah.

2. Communicating your institution's plans

As you implement temporary suspension of your mosque or institution's service and announce alternative service provision where possible, it is important to communicate this clearly and concisely to your service users or congregations to ensure clarity.

This could include:

- [WhatsApp message broadcast / announcement](#)
- [A4 letter/notice on your entrance door/gate](#)
- [A4 letter to madrasa parents](#)
- Graphic/Videos for Social Media
- Email/website notice



At the same time as announcing temporary suspension, it is a good opportunity to let your community members know about:

- Ways to keep connected remotely: Key phone numbers, Social Media / WhatsApp broadcast lists, online services/classes etc (See Section 3 below)
- Ways to donate/support your institution remotely to support your financial sustainability
- Remind and signpost to latest public health advice

See [Appendix](#) for templates or click on hyperlinks above

3. Keeping connected to your community

3a. Set-up WhatsApp/Social Media Broadcast or Announcement Lists

- This is an easy way to send mass announcements. It is very easy to set-up. You need to assign at least 1-2 volunteers to be responsible for sending out the updates.
- See template for announcing suspension of activities in [Appendix](#).
- Quick set-up advice
 - <https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/android/23130793/>
 - <https://www.wikihow.com/Send-a-Broadcast-Message-on-WhatsApp>
 - <https://help.instagram.com/292478487812558>

3b. Connecting with volunteers

- Have a quick communication channel with your **key volunteers** e.g. WhatsApp group, which is separate to your “mass announcement” list for wider service users.
- Keep your volunteers regularly **informed** and **motivated** with reminders.
- Give your volunteers **clear instructions** on what tasks and activities their support is required for.
- Have **backup plans** in case one of your trustees / management committee volunteers falls ill or has to self-isolate.

3c. Regular phone / video messages or calls

- Don't keep it all to text-based messages! We humans like to hear or see each other!
- As part of your announcements or volunteer communication (see above), incorporate **voice notes, video messages** or “**live meetings**”.
- Assign at least 1 or 2 people to be the “face” of your institution to initiate the voice or video messages during this period e.g. the Imam, madrasa head teacher, Chairperson or other person of responsibility.
- Quick “How to” set-up advice
 - <https://www.redbytes.in/best-video-chat-apps/>
 - <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/twitter-live>
 - <https://www.covideo.com/advice-deliver-great-video-messages>

3d. Online fundraising

- Your community may not be with you presently, but it's important you are still connecting with them spiritually.
- Set-up online fundraising platforms via websites/apps and direct your community to this - help them feel connected to your institution.
- If you are an Aid or Relief charity, check out [practical advice from the Muslim Charities Forum on developing a response to COVID-19 here](#).
- Quick “How to” set-up advice
 - <https://www.muslimgiving.org/for-fundraisers>
 - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tips/how-to-create-a-fundraising-page>
 - <https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/guide-top-fundraising-platforms/fundraising/article/1488120>



3e. Remote streaming services for large events

- You may choose to “live stream” or “pre-record” some of your services online e.g. classes, lectures etc.
- Several free services exist, including [Skype](#), [Zoom](#), [Google Classroom](#) and more!
- Quick “How to” set-up advice
 - <https://www.panopto.com/blog/how-to-live-stream-lectures-publicly-or-privately/>
 - <https://nathanielussier.com/blog/video-marketing/how-to-teach-classes-online>

4. What to do if someone is displaying symptoms

4a. Symptoms

Full advice on Covid-19 symptoms are at [NHS general COVID-19 advice](#). In summary:

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness, or that you will die.

The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

4b. What to do if you feel unwell

If you feel unwell the **NHS 111** has an online coronavirus service that can tell you if you need medical help and advise you what to do.

Use this service if:

- You think you might have coronavirus.
- In the last 14 days you've been to a country or area with a high risk of coronavirus.
- You've been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.

Do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Call **111** if you need to speak to someone.

If there's a chance you could have coronavirus, you may be asked to stay away from other people (self-isolate). See Section 6 below for further information.

4c. What to do if someone you know feels unwell at your premises *(only applicable for premises that must remain open for essential services e.g. pharmacy, supermarket etc)*

- In the event a member of staff, volunteer, service user or community member at your premises becomes unwell or has arrived from any affected [countries or areas](#), or is identified as having had close contact with a confirmed case, they should be moved to a separate room for isolation as soon as possible.
- This room should preferably be well ventilated with an open window, and one where the door can be closed. If it is not possible to isolate them in a room, then they should be moved to an area at least two metres away from other people.
- If the person needs to go to the bathroom whilst waiting for medical assistance, they should use a separate bathroom if available. The bathroom should be cleaned with disinfectant before being used by anyone else.
- Help the person phone **NHS 111** and then follow advice in Section 4b above.

4d. What if you or a member of your household have coronavirus symptoms

- You must **self-isolate immediately** for 14 days from when the symptoms started, which means:
 - not leave your home for any reason, other than to exercise once a day (or use your garden if you have one) - but stay at least 2m (3 steps) away from other people
 - not go out to buy food or collect medicine – order them by phone or online, or ask someone else to drop them off at your home
 - not have visitors, such as friends and family, in your home

5. Supporting the socially vulnerable/isolated

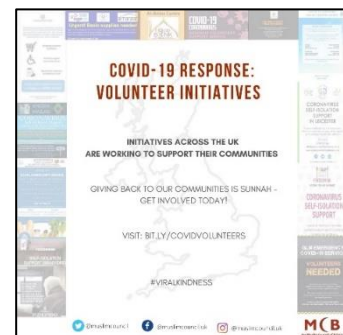
5a. Mobilising volunteers to support

- Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): *“Seek out the vulnerable among you. Verily, you are only given provision and support due to your support of the weak.”* (Tirmidhi).
- Socially vulnerable may include those community members who are:
 - **Undertaking social isolation**
 - **Elderly (especially if living alone)**
 - **Feeling unwell/ill**
 - **With disability**
 - **Economically vulnerable e.g. loss of income source**
 - **Single parents with children**
 - **No access to a car for transport**
- Many Muslim institutions, mosques and activists are turning their centers into hubs of volunteer response efforts, whilst maintaining social distancing, including:
 - **picking up shopping items from supermarket**
 - **picking up prescriptions from pharmacy**
 - **delivering a cooked meal**
 - **having a friendly conversation**
 - **supporting a local foodbank**
 - **...and more!**
- How can you get involved this?
 - **Volunteers** - identify able-bodied volunteers who can support those who need support with daily activities e.g. buying food, deliveries. Set-up communication channels and arrange an initial meeting.
 - **Broadcast / Announcements** - Tell people that help is available e.g.:
 - Social Media/WhatsApp announcements
 - Personal phone calls to community members
 - Putting a note through your neighbours' letterbox
 - *#ViralKindness* Postcard (see below Section 5c)
 - **Regular Check-In** - Make a list of socially vulnerable individuals or families in your neighbourhood/community who are likely to need support. Task your volunteers with keep in touch with them regularly. Use voice or video-messaging as well as text/graphic messages to have a stronger and more human connection and maintain morale.

5b. Get Involved! Muslim-Led Volunteer Initiatives

With many more people self-isolating, including elderly, single parents, disabled or others who are socially/ economically vulnerable, there are more and more **volunteer initiatives** being started by Muslim activists and institutions all across the UK.

- Check them out via:
www.mcb.org.uk/covid-volunteer-initiatives
- Or [Download a PDF list here](#)
- On 24 March, the **NHS England** also launched a volunteer recruitment drive. [Click here to join this!](#)



5b. #ViralKindness Postcard

On Social Media, a fantastic idea by volunteers to connect with their neighbours called #ViralKindness. See below.

Volunteers could be tasked with delivering these post cards to neighbours to support with basic errands. This can also help you create your list of socially vulnerable people in your area who require support.

#ViralKindness

I've been feeling pretty helpless watching the news. Maybe you have too? I wanted to do something about it, so I've made a postcard that I'll be posting to my older neighbours as this progresses (after washing my hands!).

*If just one person feels less lonely or isolated when faced with this pandemic, then I'll feel better about it. Coronavirus is scary. Let's make kindness go viral.
Feel free to share/print/use. X*

Printable pdf: bit.ly/viralkindness

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindness

Click here for a **Printable PDF**: bit.ly/viralkindness

6. Top tips for Muslims to keep productive during self-isolating!

Official [NHS self-isolation or "Stay At Home" advice](#) is here.

Also, Muslim Youth Helpline have provided a fantastic guide on maintaining good mental health whilst spending more time at home: Click here to view: www.myh.org.uk/coronavirus



In addition, **Shaykh Mohammed Nizami** has compiled the following handy advice for Muslims undertaking self-isolation in this [16 March Facebook post](#) to keep busy and productive!

1. **Learn the art of mindful silence.** We live in times where the noise drowns everything out. Take 20 minutes out to in absolute silence, to think. Think about the biggest things you can: the universe, where it came from, where it's going, and what's beyond your reality. Think about your priorities, who and what they are, and why they are your priorities. Explore the question "why?" as applied to everything. Mindfulness is key.

2. **Start fasting regularly.** It'll prepare you for Ramadan, stop you putting on weight at home, and help to ration food. If you're finding that challenging to begin with, try out time-restricted eating (where you only eat between particular hours – outside of that only water). Also, maybe it's a good time to rethink your diet – some staples are now hard to come by, but unsurprisingly, fresh foods (such as fruits and vegetables) seem widely available. Get online and check out some healthy recipes for tasty foods you're not used to – you don't need to have rice, pasta or bread with everything! And remember, crisps/chocolates aren't food.
3. **Rethink your habits (make a list).** Try to order your day to do specific tasks at specific times. Clear up and get rid of the things you don't need (you'll realise how much you hoard!) Learning to build habits is a skill itself. Use this quiet time to really focus on the things you don't usually. Question what you get up to, what you do, and why you do those things: It might be how you treat certain people, that ten minutes of gossiping at work, or just the habit of having your dirty socks lying around.
4. **Spend 30 mins a day reading Qur'an** in a language you understand. Spend another 30 minutes thinking: "out of all the things God could have said, he chose to say those things to humanity, in that specific way. WHY?" Besides the Qur'an, just read more generally. Avoid binge watching Netflix and read a good book of fiction (or non-fiction) instead – books are movies in your head!
5. **Spend 45mins/1hr a day following an exercise regime from YouTube.** There are loads of brilliant videos that'll meet your cardio requirements, and you won't even need any equipment. Take up pilates or yoga! If you've got kettlebells, go ham! Use this time to strengthen your core and become more supple (it takes time, which you have!), and if it's empty outside go for a jog (but be sure to avoid people) – or use that cross-trainer gathering dust in the corner!
6. **Think of all the "quality-time"** things you've wanted to do for ages with family at home, and schedule them in immediately. Play nerf guns with the kids? Cook your spouse a meal? Read a book together? A lot of the time, just sitting together and meaningfully talking about things does wonders to bring a family together. Tell them you love them more. Let them know how special they are to you, often they don't know (even if you think they do).
7. **Organise online conference calls with friends** or like-minded people and use it to occasionally socialise. Reconnect with the meaningful friends in your life, that its mundane aspects (such as work) occupy you from. WhatsApp group chats are not conversations. Or start a [insert] club where you can discuss your shared interests.
8. **Sign up to online courses.** Use this time for substantial self-development, whether its faith or intellect. There are loads of offerings out there
9. **Learn a language.** Catch up on learning Arabic (loads of resources out there). In general, apps like Duolingo are brilliant for those 20 min quick lessons. Like most things, it's about little and often.
10. **Find ways to develop yourself.** Have a list of tangible things you can say you achieved (and have something to show for it) in this period. Simply binge watching will mess with your circadian rhythm, waste valuable time, and cause you to put on weight

Read the full guide at: <https://www.facebook.com/shaykhmnizami/posts/2672454009653517>

7. Quick guide to deep cleaning

Whilst your institution has temporary suspended activities, it is a useful opportunity to perform a deep clean inside the building. This is especially important if you have had a staff/volunteer/service user who have tested positive for COVID-19 already.

Please ensure you follow deep cleaning advice as given by the [NHS e.g. see here](#)

Important areas to focus on:

Deep Clean Checklist – Key Tasks	Complete/Date?
Surfaces - All surfaces that are touched by attendees should be getting regularly cleaned with a suitable disinfectant, including sinks, toilets, kitchen surfaces and carpets.	
Cloths/sponges - Disposable cloths should preferably be used, or reusable cloths that are disinfected after each use.	
Carpet and soft furnishings - Steam cleaning is effective against germs on carpets and furnishings. Curtains can be cleaned by laundering or disinfected by steam cleaning.	
Mop/bucket - A two-mop bucket technique should be used for floors, with one for detergent and one for rinsing, cleaning and drying them after use.	
Ventilation - The building and rooms should be kept well ventilated at all times.	
Dishes/crockery – Take care to thoroughly clean when handwashing dishes/crockery, or ideally use a dishwasher. Wash brushes in a dishwasher regularly or clean with detergent and warm water after each use.	
Kitchen - Ensure food preparation surfaces are clean before use and clean surfaces immediately after use. Clean sinks frequently, if they're used regularly.	
Toilets - Use a toilet cleaner and brush every few days. Limescale should be regularly removed using a descaling product. Keep the toilet seat, handle and rim clean by using a disinfectant.	
Paper towels/hand driers only to be used in the toilet, no shared towels	
Entrances - Tissues, bin and hand gel to be provided at entrances	
Waste disposal - Foot-operated bins are more hygienic because they reduce the risk of getting germs onto your hands from touching the bin lid. Always wash your hands after handling waste material.	
Notices/posters should be displayed to remind people of the general hygiene advice.	

For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/how-to-prevent-germs-from-spreading/>

8. Be Considerate – Avoid Hoarding, Increasing Prices or Sharing Fake News!

- With reports of empty supermarket shelves, let us not accentuate the problem by over-buying – **sharing is caring**, think about who else is in need who may need the product?
- If you own a business, **keep your prices realistic and fair**. The **Competition & Markets Authority** (CMA) has launched a COVID-19 Task Force on this – [click here for more info](#).
- Don't share or forward **fake news** articles or videos until you verify it.
- Let us not forget the advice of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who said *“Wish for your brother what you wish for yourself”*.

9. What about Financial Support for my Mosque / Charity / Business?

- The temporary suspension of activities in line with public health advice means a major loss of regular income for mosques and Muslim institutions, especially donations and *Jumuah* collections, as well as businesses, while basic organisational maintenance expenses continue
- Business and charities with paid employees are eligible for the Government’s **Job Retention Scheme**, with more details to be announced shortly. Visit www.gov.uk for more information.
- **Reducing maintenance expenses** and **raising funds online regularly** should be major focus areas to minimise the economic impact on mosques and Muslim institutions. Further guidance is being prepared, please email covid@mcb.org.uk for queries in the meantime.
- **Key Government Hotlines:** Business Support Helpline: 0300 456 3565 | HMRC Coronavirus Tax Helpline: 0800 015 9559 | Universal Credit Helpline: 0800 328 5644

10. What about Muslim burials?

- Current guidance from the National Burial Council is available on how to handle, wash and bury deceased Muslims who have died due to COVID-19 at www.ncb.org.uk.⁴
- It is important that mosques and the community are aware family members may not be able to attend the *Janazah* prayer due to self-isolation and should offer appropriate support/alternative arrangements for these families.
- As of 23 March, following calls from Muslim, Jewish and other faith communities, the draft Government Coronavirus Bill was amended to make clear that enforced cremation against the wishes of the individual, will not take place when there are burial facilities available.



www.ncb.org.uk

11. What about Month of Ramadan and Fasting?

- Looking at epidemiological data from other countries, unfortunately it's likely that the pandemic will stretch well into the month of Ramadan during April/May 2020 and beyond into Summer.

⁴ <http://nbc.org.uk>

- Authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have decided to suspend *iftar* and *itikaf* in Masjid Al Haram at present. Therefore, UK Muslim institutions must similarly prepare for the **almost certain** suspending *iftar* programs and congregational *tarawih* prayers.
- Many community groups are exploring **alternative ways** of keeping connected, including live streaming services, community radio stations and hot *iftar* meal drop-offs to neighbours.
- Guidelines on exemptions from fasting for individuals feeling unwell due to COVID-19 symptoms are similar for feeling unwell from any illness. The [British Islamic Medical Association \(BIMA\)](#) will be issuing further guidance on this and healthy lifestyle soon.

12. What about Umrah and Hajj

- The suspension on travel for Umrah in Saudi Arabia remains in place since late February 2020.
- If you have members of your congregation who were planning to travel for Umrah or Hajj, please advise them to contact their travel operator and monitor the situation with the Saudi government channels.
- The Council of British Hajjis has issued guidance on this.⁵
- The effect on Hajj this summer remains uncertain.



13. Useful Links

- Official public health advice:
 - [NHS general COVID-19 advice](#)
 - [Public Health England advice](#)
 - [Health Protection Scotland advice](#)
 - [Public Health Wales advice](#)
 - [Public Health Agency \(Northern Ireland\) advice](#)
 - [Public Health England campaign resources \(posters, other resources etc\)](#)
- Muslim community specialist advice:
 - [British Board of Scholars and Imams \(BBSI\) latest guidance](#)
 - [Muslim Youth Helpline – Mental Health Practical Guide](#)
 - [Muslim Charities – Practical Guide](#)
 - [National \(Muslim\) Burial Council latest advice](#)
 - [Council of British Hajjis UK latest advice to Hajj and Umrah Pilgrims](#)
- Other useful advice:
 - [Foreign Office travel advice](#)
 - [Department for Education education setting guidance](#)
 - [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) advice on coping with stress](#)
 - [Mental Health Foundation advice on coping with stress](#)

14. Feedback

- Feedback on the contents of this toolkit are always welcome. Please email: covid@mcb.org.uk
- Collated by Muslim Council of Britain. Information accurate as of **Wednesday 25 March 2020**.
- Latest guidance at www.mcb.org.uk/coronavirus
- Keep up to date with the latest Broadcasts / Announcements by:
 - Join WhatsApp broadcast group at bit.ly/covidwhatsapp6
 - Join Email mailing list at bit.ly/MCBcovidupdates



⁵ <http://cbhuk.org/news/general-news/coronavirus-outbreak-advice-hajj-umrah-travellers/>
www.mcb.org.uk/coronavirus | covid@mcb.org.uk

15. Appendix

15.1 Template WhatsApp Message for Suspending Activities

[INSERT NAME OF MOSQUE] TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES - [INSERT DATE]

In line with UK Government guidelines, **[Insert name of mosque]** has taken the difficult decision to implement the temporary suspension of all activities at the mosque, including jum'ah and fardh salaah, starting from **[INSERT DATE]**.

This decision has been taken following Islamic, governmental and medical guidance as the best way to protect the community from the spread of coronavirus. We have a duty of care to our worshippers, our volunteers, our families and our community. The best way to do this is for our community to pray at home.

If you are in need of any support, please contact **[NAME, CONTACT DETAILS]**.

We have created a WhatsApp Group for community members to stay in touch. Please click here to join: **[INSERT JOINT LINK]** or text "JOIN" to **[INSERT MOBILE NUMBER]**

For more information on Coronavirus and what you need to do to stay safe, please visit mcb.org.uk/coronavirus.

May Allah protect our community, the weak and elderly, and guide the ummah through these difficult times. Ameen.

[NAME OF IMAM/SECRETARY/CHAIR, NAME OF MOSQUE/INSTITUTION]

15.2 Template A4 Letter/Notice

Title: **[NAME OF MOSQUE/INSTITUTION] COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

Dear Community Member
Asalam Alaykum, Peace be with you,

Following guidelines from the UK Government and UK Chief Medical Officers and after discussing the situation with local religious scholars and Muslim medical experts, it is with a heavy heart that **[NAME OF MOSQUE/INSTITUTION]** has decided to take the unprecedented decision to temporarily suspend all congregational activities.

The temporary suspension will come into effect from **[INSERT DATE/TIME]** until further notice, and includes:

- Daily Salah (congregational activity)
- Madrasa and Education Classes
- Friday Jumu'ah Prayers
- Talks, conferences and other seminars
- **[INSERT OTHER]**

As a mosque/institution, we have a duty of care towards our community members, and the medical evidence and scholarly advice all points clearly to the fact that in the current COVID-

19 pandemic, community members are safer offering their prayers at home. This includes Friday Jumuah, which should be replaced with normal Dhuhr prayers at home.

Not only will it keep you safe, but it will help avoid our NHS health care services from being overwhelmed by the expected large rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the coming weeks.

We have created a WhatsApp Group for community members to say in touch. Please click here to join: **[INSERT JOINT LINK]** or text "JOIN" to **[INSERT MOBILE NUMBER]**

We ask all community members in this period to remain calm and patience, and to avoid panic buying, hoarding of goods or if you are a business owner, increasing the prices of your goods/services.

Allah (swt) teaches us in the Quran: *"And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to those who are patient."* (Quran, 2:155)

We also encourage community members to looks out for their families, neighbours and local communities who are socially vulnerable/isolation. You can get involved in a local volunteer initiative by contacting: **[NAME, CONTACT DETAILS]**.

For further guidance on COVID-19 including what to do if you feel ill, visit mcb.org.uk/coronavirus.

We pray that Allah (swt) protects us during these testing times and increases us in strength.

Yours sincerely,
[NAME OF IMAM/SECRETARY/CHAIR, NAME OF MOSQUE/INSTITUTION]

15.3 Template A4 Letter to Madrasa Parents (Additional text to 15.2 template letter above)

Title: **[NAME OF MADRASA] Temporary Closure**

Dear Parent
Asalam Alaykum, Peace be with you,

Any fees paid will be carried forward to the next term.

We are looking into alternative options to continue the Madrasa via online classes. We will communicate these to you as soon as possible. Or **[INSERT ONLINE CLASSROOM DETAILS]**.

Ends.