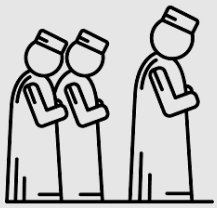
England National Lockdown - from Thursday 5 Nov (1/2)

Impact on mosques, madrasas and community centres

NO COMMUNAL PRAYERS



Daily congregational prayer and Friday *Jumuah* are not allowed, however '**individual prayer**' is allowed (see below)

MADRASAS



Unless for specific purposes as defined by DfE, madrasas require to suspend face-to-face lessons. See DfE website for details

FUNERALS (*JANAZAH*)



Funerals and commemorative events for the deceased can take place with up to 30 family members/friends

WEDDINGS (*NIKAH*)



No ceremonies allowed in places of worship until after lockdown restrictions lifted

URGENT SERVICES



essential support services (e.g. food banks, support for the homeless / vulnerable, blood donation) are permitted

BROADCAST / FILMING



of worship and other services to enable your community to watch and worship via online live stream can continue

What is 'individual prayer'?

- The Government is defining this as individuals performing prayer by themselves, but **NOT** taking part in a 'led' prayer or service.
- **Practically,** this means individuals are allowed to use the mosque or community centre to perform individual (*furada*) prayer, but **NOT** congregational (*jama'ah*) prayers behind an Imam or any other 'led' group activity.

Is it practical to implement 'individual prayer'?

- There is a range of opinion, with some mosques choosing to trial 'individual prayer' rules, whilst others closing. See Page 2 for further guidance.

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England National Lockdown - from Thursday 5 Nov (2/2)

Is it practical to implement 'individual prayer'?

- The MCB and many other organisations have raised **strong concerns** to the Government that 'individual prayer' rules are a) **impractical** for many mosques to implement and b) there is no evidence that it **reduces risk of virus transmission**.
- On 4th Nov, the Government **has not accepted these calls** and legislation has been passed
- Therefore, whilst we continue to lobby for change, from 5th Nov, legally, only mosques that are able to comply with **'individual prayer' rules** can remain open to the public for worship.

- There is a range of opinion, with some mosques choosing to trial 'individual prayer' rules, whilst others closing. Based on feedback received from mosque leaders intending to trial new rules, the following changes to your **COVID19-Secure Risk Assessment** are suggested:

	Risk	Example of Control Measure
1	Individuals not following new rules and pray in congregation instead	1. Consider opening mosque only for limited time slots outside of congregational (*jama'ah*) times e.g. between Fajr & Dhuhr (9-11am) and/or Asr & Maghrib (3-4pm) and/or after Isha (after 6.30pm) with cleaning in between; and/or 2. Ensure staff/volunteer stewards in place to remind people that only individual (*furada*) - but **NOT** congregational (*jama'ah*) – prayers are permitted; and/or 3. Display posters stating management will not be held responsible (template here)
2	Worshippers stay for extended time inside prayer hall, increasing virus transmission risk	1. Provide reminders to worshippers on entry that they are encouraged to limit their time in the prayer hall to a set number of minutes; and/or 2. Implement a "shift" system where worshippers are only allowed in and out of the prayer hall in specific time blocks of a set duration
3	Cleaning routine outdated	1. Ensure regular sanitisation of building - especially touched surfaces - takes place in between your adjusted opening times
4	Communication & signage outdated	1. Update displays and posters; and announce updated list of your new rules to your congregation via email/social media 2. Reinforce reminders about wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing, age limits, maximum capacity of your prayer hall and any other rules
5	Reduction in donations	1. Direct attendees to give their donation upon entry and exit of your building 2. Ensure your online donation platforms are well-publicised 3. Recruit "Fundraising Officer" volunteer(s) to remind community to donate regularly
6	Staff/volunteers unaware of protocol	1. Ensure your staff/volunteers are updated and trained on your new protocols. 2. Recruit and train new male/female volunteers as required 3. Implement new rules for 1-week trial, then re-assess if practical to continue or not

Please note: these suggestions are non-exhaustive and generic. They should only be implemented according to your mosque's local context, with input from your local scholars and medical professionals.

HOWEVER, If your trustees (who have ultimate legal responsibility for your venue) assess that it is **NOT** practical for your mosque or community centre to implement measures such as the above to enable 'individual worship', with great sadness, it is recommended to temporarily close to the public for daily worship until the national lockdown ends.

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