

March 20, 2020

As Salaamu Alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuu,

To the Muslims who attend The Islamic Center of America, Masjidu Ahlis Sunnah and Madrasatu Ahlis Sunnah. We pray that you are in the best of faith, health, and circumstances during these trying times.

The faith, health and safety of our community is our highest priority at The Islamic Center of America. We continue to closely monitor the spread of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, daily and with great care. The Islamic Center of America is committed to implementing the following procedures to prevent any potential cases for the Muslims. We have formulated these procedures in accordance with all public health directives from federal, state and local agencies.

All of our educational programs and institutional operations at Masjidu Ahlis Sunnah will continue to be ongoing. Masjidu Ahlis Sunnah will continue to hold the five daily prayers, as the prayers are regularly less than 50 persons and, therefore, still in line with the guidelines issued by the Governor of New Jersey. Masjidu Ahlis Sunnah will continue to hold the weekly Jumu'ah khutbah and prayer, as the guidelines of the Governor of New Jersey allow for exceptions for essential activities. Masjidu Ahlis Sunnah will screen Jumu'ah attendees for signs of fever and other symptoms of illness from the COVID-19 virus.

All people are strongly discouraged from personal travel. Please note that The Islamic Center of America reserves the right to decline entry to the institution for Muslims who have traveled and/or are deemed to pose a health risk to our community.

In compliance to the directive from the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Madrasatu Ahlis Sunnah will be closed, but will continue to provide academic instruction for your children. Madrasatu Ahlis Sunnah staff and administration have met and discussed the best options for continuing the learning process while at home. Teachers have already begun to distribute packets of work. Other means of instruction are actively being prepared, including online content. In order for these efforts to succeed, parents and students must commit to do their utmost to support the work of our staff. In sha Allah we can achieve this by ensuring that your child completes all assignments. Please stay connected to Madrasatu Ahlis Sunnah via email, as further information will be provided. It is anticipated that this closure will last until at least April 1, 2020.

Islamic Center of America continues to strongly encourage all Muslims to follow necessary steps to minimize risk to ourselves, to our community, and the broader communities to which we belong and with whom we connect. The precautionary measures recommended by the WHO and CDC include:

1. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for a minimum of 30 seconds, using soap and water or hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Disinfect commonly used items such as cell phones, laptops, keyboards with disinfectant wipes.

4. Avoid close contact with those who are sick, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing, or clearly ill.
5. Cover your mouth with a tissue, sleeve, or elbow (not hands) when sneezing or coughing; discard tissues immediately in trash cans.
6. Stay home if you feel sick with a fever of 100.4 or above and seek attention from a medical provider if your symptoms warrant it.
7. Keep your immune system strong by eating a healthy diet, getting enough sleep along with regular exercise, and by taking care of underlying health conditions.
8. Comply with directives from federal, state and local health authorities on large gatherings and space occupancy.

The Islamic Center of America encourages all Muslims to check out the following useful Links:

**World Health Organization** Coronavirus page <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

**CDC** COVID-19 page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

**Your brothers in Islam,**

**Trustees of the Islamic Center of America**