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Guidelines

Observing Juma-tul-Wida in Covid-19 Pandemic

Objective

To provide guidelines to the local authorities, organizers and participants of Juma-tul-wida congregations, to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission during the religious event.

Rationale

Because of religious significance of Jumat-ul-wida, a large number of namzis are expected to offer prayers in mosques. Such events can potentially lead to catastrophic spread of SARS COV-2 virus with disastrous results. These guidelines have been developed to propose measures to ensure safe prayers for muslims on Juma-tul-wida.

Holding of milads must be avoided during COVID-19 pandemic.

General Preventive Measures in Mosques for Juma-tul-wida prayers

- Separate entrances and exits should be made in a one-way system to prevent bottlenecks if possible. Avoid crowding when entering or exiting the mosques.
- Thermal Screening for all worshippers at entry points of mosque.
- Hand sanitizer at entrances/exits, making it mandatory for all people to use it before entering and after exiting.
- Every person should wear fabric/surgical mask appropriately over nose and mouth
- Mark out prayer spaces clearly using measuring instruments to make social distancing of 3 feet easy to follow.
- Worshippers should bring their own Prayer mat /Janamaz
- Namazis should be informed to perform wudhu at home before coming for prayers
- People must maintain social distancing by keeping 1 meter (3 feet) distance between each other, and every other row should be left empty to allow for 1 meter (3 feet) spacing in all directions



- Sick, elderly and children under 15 years of age should offer prayers at home and avoid congregations
- Avoid socializing within the mosque before and after prayers
- Allocate COVID-19 safety officer on both male and female sides.
- The waiting time between the call to prayer and the actual prayer is limited to 10 minutes in order to avoid overcrowding.
- Mosques must close no later than 10 minutes after the prayer ends.
- Imams should deliver the sermons on the topic of the virus and preventative measures that Government of Pakistan has taken in order to slow the spread to give individuals an active role in promoting the health and safety of the members of society
- Windows and doors of the mosques should be kept open for good ventilation during the duration of the prayer
- No carpets or mats to be laid down in mosques
- Clean floors for prayers must be ensured by washing them with chlorinated water regularly
- Every person should wear fabric/surgical mask
- Avoid all forms of physical contact including handshake
- Worshipers must maintain social distancing by keeping 1 meter (3 feet) distance between each other, and every other row should be left vacant
- Restrooms and ablution sections must be closed.

Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international recommendations and best practices.

The Ministry acknowledges the contribution of Dr Sayema Awais, and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.

References

1. Cleaning and disinfection for households: interim recommendations for US households with suspected or confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Atlanta, Georgia: United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2020 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaningdisinfection.html>).
2. World Health Organization. Practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities in the context of COVID-19, Interim guidance, April 2020. Available from: file:///C:/Users/drsay/Downloads/WHO-2019-nCoV-Religious_Leaders-2020.1-eng.pdf
3. Environmental cleaning and disinfection in non-health-care settings in the context of COVID-19, Interim Guidance by WHO, 30 March 2020

For more information, please contact:

HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH, PM National Health Complex, Islamabad

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<https://www.facebook.com/NHSRCOfficial>

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