

CORONAVIRUS

GENERAL ADVICE TO Muslim
Public, Imams, Scholars, Mosques
and Community Leaders

This is a public service message by
The British Board of Scholars & Imams

www.bbsi.org.uk
info@bbsi.org.uk
[Facebook.com/bbsionline](https://www.facebook.com/bbsionline)
[@bbsionline](https://www.instagram.com/bbsionline)

CORONAVIRUS

PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS

For more information and the Governments
action plan, go to
www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS: GENERAL ADVICE TO Muslim Public, Imams, Scholars, Mosques and Community Leaders

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways, caused by Coronavirus. Its symptoms are similar to those of a severe flu, and include coughing, difficulty in breathing and high temperature. The Chief Medical Officer has recently raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. COVID-19 is less infectious than the flu, but is more severe, with a higher risk of adverse consequences for the elderly, chronically ill and very young. 80% of COVID-19 infections are mild. There is no vaccine for COVID-19 yet, and preventing transmission is the best approach.

Islamic teachings advise us to take precautionary and preventative measures to protect ourselves from the consequences of such outbreaks, whilst at the same time reassuring us that all things occur according to the Decree of Allah.

We at the British Board of Scholars and Imams thus encourage the community to remain calm, keep faith in Allah's Decree, and then to follow the following guidance to prevent the spread of the virus and protect the community from ill health. This is summarised from up to date government guidance, which can be consulted for further information.



General advice to individuals*

1. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially when entering or leaving the house. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
2. You can also use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available, especially after taking public transport. These have been deemed both permissible and ritually pure by major Islamic scholars of both past and present.
3. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue into a bin.
4. If you feel unwell: do not panic, stay at home and do not attend work or school.
5. If you are worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 (or 999 if you are severely ill). Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.
6. In keeping with the teachings of the Holy Prophet (s), avoid non-essential travel to areas with a higher risk of coronavirus infection. If you have arrived from such a country, seek medical advice and quarantine/self-isolate for a period of 14 days.

***www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19**



Guidelines for Mosques and Madrasas*

- 1. If you have symptoms of the virus please contact NHS 111 and do not attend the mosque or madrassa. In this instance, you are excused from the congregational prayers (including Jumua).**
- 2. In addition, avoid contact with other family members (as much as possible) who attend the mosque or other public gatherings during this period.**
- 3. If you fall ill at mosque or madrasa, keep a 2-metre distance from other users, and call NHS 111.**
- 4. At the mosque, use tissue to cover your nose when sneezing. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze into your elbow. When you can, clean your nose with a tissue, then bin it and wash your hands straight away. Wash your hands when exiting the mosque. If you are able to, carry a hand sanitiser wherever you go.**
- 5. Mosques should keep hand sanitising soaps and tissues for use around the mosque. Some may be concerned that the alcohol in these sanitisers is considered religiously impure (najis) by some scholars: if so, a simple wash of water after use of hand sanitiser, which takes place during wudu' anyway, will suffice to remove the najasa.**
- 6. Imams and scholars should remind and educate their congregation about the importance of good hygiene, as well as of taking care of their health more generally, as it is an amana (sacred trust) from Allah.**

***www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-guidance-to-assist-professionals-in-advising-the-general-public/guidance-to-assist-professionals-in-advising-the-general-public**

General advice to the community*

1. Whilst taking these reasonable precautions to protect ourselves and others, do not become fearful: everything happens by the Decree of Allah.
2. It is highly encouraged to support those individuals and families affected in their local areas in their times of difficulty, while taking precautions for yourselves. 'Allah assists his servants as long as His servants are assisting their fellow men.' - (Muslim)

Help by:

- a. Checking up on neighbours, especially the elderly and infirm
 - b. Shopping and other assistance (drop at their doorstep)
 - c. Giving moral and spiritual support by phone.
3. Avoid forwarding unconfirmed news reports on social media and elsewhere; always seek guidance from experts, for the Prophet (s) said, 'sufficient for a person to be considered a liar is that they spread news without confirming it'. - (Muslim)
 4. Situations such as these provide an opportunity for the believer to remember the fragility of human life, and our ultimate return to our Lord. Turn to Allah in hope, longing, patience and prayer. Remain calm and be beacons of faith, stability and dignity in the face of adversity for others.

We pray that Allah provides ease to the afflicted, healing to the sick, and comfort and wellbeing to all people.

Protection from all fatal diseases

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْبَرَصِ، وَالْجُنُونِ، وَالْجُدَامِ، وَمِنْ سَيِّئِ الْأَسْقَامِ

**Allahumma inni A'udhu Bika Minal Barasi, Wal Jununi
wal Juthami, Wa Min Si'il Asqami**
(Abu Dawud)

**Information is rapidly changing. Please check the relevant
government and NHS websites**

5/3/2020

***www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-guidance-to-assist-professionals-in-advising-the-general-public/guidance-to-assist-professionals-in-advising-the-general-public**