



Islamic Center of Tucson
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statement
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Dear Respected Community Members,
AsSalam Alaykum,

As communities around the world begin to feel the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The Islamic Center of Tucson administration has been closely monitoring local and national reports on the evolving impact of the Coronavirus and based on guidance from the Quran and Sunnah, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and public health agencies, we've developed plans that will allow us to respond timely and appropriately.

Below are a few health safety measures that have been taken:

- On March 5th, Pima County Health Director, Dr. Bob England came to the ICT and shared some facts about the virus and tips on how to practice safe hygiene.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been installed at the entrances of the Islamic Center of Tucson.
- We've made copies of the Pima County Health Department's letter to the Islamic Center of Tucson's congregants on educational tips to stay healthy.
- We are attending a session with the Arizona Department of Health Services to provide us with guidance on how to proactively upkeep our sanitization efforts

The Coronavirus has already spread to the greater Pima County area and citywide efforts are being put forward to help prevent further spread. This includes some tough decisions that we've made by the Islamic Center of Tucson's Administration:

- **Friday Service (Jumua Prayer) has been canceled until further notice.**
- **Daily congregational prayers at the ICT have been canceled until further notice.**
- **Sunday School, Al Bayan School, and Saturday School will be canceled until further notice. We will update you as new information regarding classes becomes available.**
- **The scheduled Muslim Cultural Day has been canceled at this time.**
- **Regularly scheduled social events & gatherings have been canceled until further notice.**

The Prophet, peace and blessing upon him, has taught us that supplication (du'a) is the best armor of the believer. Yet he also cautioned us specifically about spreading epidemics: "If you hear of a plague in a land, then do not go into it; and if it befalls a land you are in, then do not go out from it" (Bukhari, no. 5396; Muslim no. 2218).

Following in the footsteps of our Prophet, please review and follow these actions:

- Congregants who are experiencing symptoms, even if mild, are strongly discouraged from attending any ICT activities. The symptoms include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In this instance, you are excused from the congregational prayers (including Jumua)
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact, maintain general good hygiene and take care of their health more generally, as it is a sacred trust from Allah.
- The elderly and the chronically ill should take extra precautions. We encourage them to not pray in congregation.
- Wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds as frequently as you can.

While we should take reasonable precautions to protect ourselves, do not become fearful as everything happens by the Decree of Allah. This epidemic can serve as a reminder of the fragility of human life, and our ultimate return to our Lord. Turn to Allah in hope, longing, patience and prayer. May Allah guide, protect and grant his mercy on this community and all communities around the world.

Respectfully,
Islamic Center of Tucson's Board of Directors
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