

AL AZHAR MASJID

Keizersgracht Street, District Six
P O Box 12583, Mill Street, Cape Town 8010



17 March 2020

Cape Town

The COVID-19 (Corona Virus) pandemic refers.

We, the Al Azhar Institution, convened an urgent meeting where the following were carefully deliberated and considered:

- The Safety of our Musalli's, Mureeds and the general community at large
- The opinion and guidance offered by Health professionals (that isolation be practised and large gatherings be avoided)
- The limitation of the spread of the virus
- The Presidential Decree

Looking at the above, and most importantly, in the context of the guidance given to us by the Quraan and Sunnah, we need to play our role in stopping this rapidly-spreading pandemic. Therefore, as part of our social responsibility to each other as fellow human beings and brothers and sisters in Islam, it would be irresponsible, to say the least, if we were to continue as per normal.

As we know, there is to date no vaccine for this virus, therefore we need to do whatever we can to contain it.

In our decision, we are reminded of our duty as Muslims towards our fellow brothers and sisters, that our Nabi SAW has said in a hadith, "None of you have complete faith, unless you love for your brother that which you love for yourselves".

This saying of our beloved Prophet SAW, is a clear indication of the compassion, love and concern that we, as Muslims, must cultivate and have for our fellow human beings, especially so during these challenging times.

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Additionally, we learn in Suratur Rad, Aayah 11 “indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves” (Quran, 13:11)

Prevention is thus better than cure; and as the saying of the Prophet reminds us:
“Leave that which leaves you with doubt, for that which leaves you without doubt”.

It is on such basis that we have instituted measures to:

- Contribute effort and momentum to combat the spread of COVID-19, and
- To ensure that the masjid is, without doubt, not contributing to the spread of the virus in any way.

Our conclusion was thus that the Al Azhar Masjid shall be in **TOTAL LOCKDOWN** until further notice. The Executive and Imaamat of The Al Azhar Masjid assure our Mureeds and community that the situation shall be carefully monitored and any further decision or measures around this will be communicated as soon as possible.

The lockdown of the Al Azhar Masjid means that:

- No Salaah shall be performed
- No Jumuah shall be performed. The safety of the congregation is a condition for Jumuah, and when this is compromised, the compulsion of Jumuah falls away, and Thuhr becomes the Fard Salaah of the Waqt
- No Nikahs shall take place
- No Janaazah Salaah shall take place
- No Dhikr gatherings shall take place

May Almighty Allah bless us all and keep us safe, Ameen.

Yours in Islam

The Al Azhar Masjid Committee

Sheikh Ismail Keraan
Resident Imaam

Zakaria Francis
Chairman