

# ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of NORTH AMERICA

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For Immediate Release

3/12/2020

## Closure of Masjid Corona Virus

Assalamu Alaikum WRWB,

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the corona virus COVID-19 as pandemic. The Governor has declared a state of Emergency in the state. According to CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the COVID-19 virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. We, at IONA, are closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and following the guidance from CDC, WHO, local public health authorities, and the Assembly of Muslims Jurists of America (AMJA). In light of the challenges of the Corona virus and for the safety and well-being of our community, IONA, being a member of the Imams Council of Michigan, has decided to follow the decision of the Imams Council.

*“Perform your prayer in your homes”*

*“The Imams Council of Michigan after consulting with doctors and medical experts, and in compliance with the recommendation of the Governor decided to cancel the Jum'ah congregations for the next two weeks (3/13/20 and 3/20 20).”*

Please see attached for or read below the entire Imams Council's statement.

Also, be advised that all IONA events have been postponed until further notice. The events include,

- 1- Women in Islam Conference (3/14/20)
- 2- Community Dinner (3/27/20)
- 3- Ilyas and Duck Show (date)
- 4- Sunday School

Additionally, the Youth of Ummah (YOU) has decided to cancel all its programs and leagues until further notice.

We will keep you updated, in sha Allah. We call upon our communities to respond with care and concern for the well-being of all. May Allah (SWT) protect us from this deadly and other diseases, ameen.

The following recommendations are from the Governor's office. Please follow them.

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

Wassalamu Alaikum WRWB,

Mustapha Elturk  
Ameer of IONA

End

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IONA's mission is to transform its members and help transform the surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek forgiveness from our Creator to earn His pleasure. We seek His compassion and mercy in this life and in the hereafter. We rejuvenate our soul through internal struggle and spiritual exercise in worship of our creator God. The strength of our belief in God gives us the courage to establish good and forbid evil, thus promoting a system of justice for all mankind.



**“Perform the prayer in your homes”**

**The Imams Council of Michigan after consulting with doctors and medical experts, and in compliance with the recommendation of the Governor decided to cancel the Jum'ah congregations for the next two weeks (3/13/20 and 3/20/20)**

It was narrated during the time of the Prophet (SAWS) that when the people feared attending the prayer due to heavy rain or other harms that the above statement was substituted into the call to prayer.

'Abdullah b. 'Abbas reported that he said to the Mu'adhhdhin on a rainy day:

**When you have announced [during the call to prayer] “I testify that there is no god but Allah; I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah,” do not say: “Come to the prayer,” but make this announcement: “Perform the prayer in your houses.”**

**He (the narrator) said that the people disapproved of it. Ibn 'Abbas said: Are you astonished at it? He (the Holy Prophet), who is better than I, did it. Jum'u'a prayer is no doubt obligatory, but I do not like that I should (force you) to come out and walk in mud and slippery ground.**

The Prophet (SAWS) showed great concern that the attendees of his blessed congregation not harm themselves in attending it. The Prophet (SAWS) was also known to dislike the attendance of those who had eaten garlic and onions in his congregation, stating that it was unpleasant to the other attendees and instructing them to stay away from the mosque until the smell had subsided. If this was the instruction with regards to an unpleasant smell and an unsafe passageway, how then should we conduct ourselves when dealing with a deadly disease like COVID-19?

#### Principles to Consider:

- The Prophet (SAWS) said: **“There is no harming nor reciprocating harm.”** It is impermissible for anyone experiencing symptoms of the COVID-19 virus to attend the mosque or public spaces.
- The Prophet (SAWS) said: **“A sick person should not be taken to one who is healthy.”** Extra care (avoiding mass gatherings, cancelling dinners/lectures/gatherings, self-isolation in the case of illness) is mandatory during this time in order to prevent the spread of the illness.
- Hand shaking should be avoided. 'Amr b. Sharid reported on the authority of his father that there was in the delegation of Thaqif a leper. Allah's Prophet (SAWS) sent a message to him: **“We have accepted your allegiance, so you may go.” [Avoiding touching the man so as not to spread the illness]**
- The Prophet (SAWS) said: **“If you hear of a plague in a land, then do not go into it. If it happens in land where you are, then do not go out of it.”**

**In order to emulate the prophetic care and to protect our families from the corona-virus, we request for our respective communities to comply with the Imam's Council's decision.**

We ask Allah that He grant us from His enabling grace, and we ask that He protect us and our loved ones in these trying times and keep us all in the best of health and Iman.

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