

# FMO 15 Step Guidance V1 (Abridged - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

Please find below an abridged summary of actions below agreed at a meeting of affiliate representatives on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to discuss the ongoing and emerging issues arising from and relating to the Coronavirus also known as (COVID-19). For the full guidance please see FMO Guidance Full summary:



**Co-operation** Please remain calm, respectful and co-operate with appointed Masjid/ Madrasah volunteers. Volunteers will challenge where appropriate in order to protect the institution



**Salah Prayers** Masjid will continue to remain open until guidance from the DfE, NHS, PHE or UK Govt prescribes otherwise



**Additional & Optional Salah** Any additional (Sunan/ Witr) or optional (Nawafil) salah should be prayed at home



**Prayer Mat/ Musallah/ Suffuf** Masjid attendees should bring their own personal musalla or equivalent from home to pray on



**Reducing time and close contact** Masjids should only open for 10 minutes before Salah, remain open only for the obligatory Salah and close as soon as possible thereafter. Masjids should also cancel any additional activities until further notice



**Ablution/ Wudu** Toilet and wudu/ ablution facilities should remain closed. Only the main prayer hall of the masjid should be accessible. All attendees must be advised to perform wudu/ ablution at home



**Washing Hands/ Hygiene** All attendees accessing the Masjid must maintain high levels of hygiene

**And Cleaning** Institutions must arrange regular and appropriate deep cleans after each activity



**Symptoms** Anyone who has certain prescribed symptoms namely a high temperature 37.8 degrees and a new continuous cough, must self-isolate for 7 days and not attend the Masjid throughout this period. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days' contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk.



**Children** under 11 should not come to the Masjid to minimise the risk of infection to adults



**Vulnerable/ Elderly** Anyone deemed medically at higher risk due to age or pre-existing or underlying conditions should pray at home



**Communication** Institutions should communicate regularly with service users providing clear and latest guidelines on current issues and any updates from the Mimbar, website, letters and displaying endorsed signage



**Management/ Risk Assessment** Management committees should remain in regular contact and continue to plan, prepare and review risk assessments in light of the developing situation and emerging trends



**Madrasah/ Supplementary schools** Madrasahs should be closed with immediate effect until further notice. The priority for all institutions should be to apply their focus, planning and preparation in maintaining the obligatory Salah



**Future closures/ Govt advice** All institutions will continue to monitor the current local, national and Government guidance as appropriate and remain committed to meeting our duty to reflect and amend plans subject to developments.



**Supplication/ Du'a** Above all, we must all continue to make Tawbah, Istighfaar, Du'a and Dhikr, trust absolutely in Allah SWT and never give up hope in His Divine Mercy.

# FMO 15 Step Guidance V1 (Full summary - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

The FMO convened an emergency meeting of affiliate representatives on Sunday, 15th March 2020 to discuss the ongoing and emerging issues arising from and relating to the Coronavirus also known as (COVID-19). There was general consensus and agreement from attendees consisting of specialist health professionals, nominated management committee representatives, lead Imams and Madrasah/ School Headteachers to provide the following guidance in order protect our community:

**Co-operation: Please remain calm, respectful and co-operate with appointed Masjid/ Madrasah volunteers** and the instructions of the Masjid/ Management Committees who are the custodians of our blessed Islamic institutions. We are all working in the best interests of our communities with sincerity and unity for a collective effort.

**Salah Prayers: Masjid will continue to remain open until guidance from the DfE, NHS, PHE or UK Govt prescribes otherwise.** Certain conditions and restrictions will undoubtedly need to be in place, however, in general, the main obligatory Fard Salah will continue until there is an updated official government notification regarding large gatherings.

**Additional & optional salah: Only Fard Salah should be offered in the Masjid. Any additional (Sunan/ Witr) or optional (Nawafil) salah should be prayed at home.**

**Prayer Mat/ Musalla/ Suffuf:** Given the high risk for up to 12 hours of fomite transmission (when viruses or bacteria that remain on surfaces cause infections) from prayer surfaces particularly during sujud. **Masjid attendees should bring their own personal musalla or equivalent from home**

Alternatively, where able, Masjid may prepare sheeting for each salah that is subsequently washed at 60 degrees (fabric variant) or disposed of (polymer/ plastic) immediately. In larger Masjids, the consideration may also be to rotate locations so that the same areas are not used for each salah.

**Reducing time and close contact: Salah Prayers and sermons should be shortened as much as possible by the Imam** to minimise close contact between the congregation. **Masjids should only open for 10 minutes before Jamaat time, remain open for the obligatory Salah and close as soon as possible thereafter.**

**Masjids should cancel any additional activities until further notice.** These include any Islamic circles/ lectures or otherwise other than the obligatory Salah.

Attendees should also be informed not to congregate in small groups in or around the Masjid.

**Ablution/ Wudu:** Given the high risk of contamination in this area, **toilet and wudu/ ablution facilities should remain closed. Only the main prayer hall of the masjid should be accessible. All attendees must be advised to perform wudhu/ ablution at home.** Those with incontinence issues should pray at home.

**Washing hands/Hygiene: All attendees accessing the Masjid must maintain high levels of hygiene:**

- Wash your hands regularly and before you leave home and when you return home
- Carry tissues and preferably hand sanitiser with you
- Avoid any unnecessary contact with fellow attendees
- Avoid touching your face including mouth, nose and eyes
- Sneeze/ cough into your elbow or a tissue (not your hands)

**And Cleaning: Institutions must arrange regular and appropriate deep cleans after each activity.** Surfaces which attendees touch should be limited such as door handles and wiped regularly.

Masjids should Keep any non-fire doors open to minimise risk of surface infection around handles and panels.

**Symptoms:** In line with the latest Government guidance, **anyone who has certain symptoms namely high temperature 37.8 degrees and a new continuous cough must self-isolate for 7 days and not attend the Masjid throughout this period.** This means individuals should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. **If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days' contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk.** If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999 or visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-government-announces-moving-out-of-contain-phase-and-into-delay>

**Children:** It is not obligatory for young children to perform Salah in the Masjid and therefore **children under the age of 11 or who have not reached adolescence should not come to the Masjid to minimise the risk of infection to adults.**

**Vulnerable/ Elderly:** **Anyone deemed medically at higher risk due to age or pre-existing or underlying conditions should pray at home.** This includes anyone who is over the prescribed risk group age of over 70 and those taking medication of any kind relating diabetes, respiratory conditions such as asthma or Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac conditions including hypertension and those deemed to have a weaker immune system.

**Communication:** **Institutions should communicate regularly with service users.** This can include **clear and latest guidelines on hygiene, associated charity, etiquette on current issues such as advising their congregation not to panic-buy products that affect the most vulnerable or not to spread misinformation and any updates from the Mimbar, website, letters and endorsed signage.**

In the event that there may be Government prescribed bans on gatherings, institutions should prepare work on **updating websites and planning for online access or a programme schedule to be broadcast over the receiver.** Note, there are likely to be many in self-isolation for long periods particularly the elderly who will require the spiritual and factual communication.

**Management/ Risk Assessment:** **Management committees should remain in regular contact and continue to plan, prepare and review risk assessments (see attached template) in light of the developing situation and emerging trends.** This document outlines the staged response, key actions, core control measures and information for all stakeholders.

**Madrasah/ Supplementary schools:** **Madrasahs should be closed with immediate effect until further notice. The priority for all institutions should be to apply their focus, planning and preparation in maintaining the obligatory Salah.** It is not deemed feasible that most providers would have the capacity, resources or expertise to deep clean to the levels required.

**Future closures/ Govt advice:** **All institutions will continue to monitor the current local, national, Government, Department for Education, Public Health England and NHS guidance as appropriate relating to the pandemic and remain committed to meeting our duty to reflect and amend plans subject to developments.**

**Supplication/ Du'a:** **We must continue to make Tawbah, Istighfaar, Dua and Dhikr, trust absolutely in Allah SWT and never give up hope in His Divine Mercy.**

\* The FMO and its affiliates will continue to communicate and collaborate with local scholars, healthcare professionals and specialists and update this guidance to reflect affiliate feedback. Please note this is the current advice based on the most recent meeting (15th March) and will be subject to change as the situation dictates. Please contact [info@fmo.org.uk](mailto:info@fmo.org.uk) for further information