

STATEMENT REGARDING PRAYER IN CONGREGATION IN LOCKDOWN REGIONS

November 25, 2020 | *Rabi Al-Akhar 10, 1442 AH*

Bismillah hirRahman nirRaheem

*In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
Abundant Peace, Blessings and Salutations upon the Prophet Muhammad (S)*

Dear Canadian Muslims,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be with you

Several jurisdictions across the country, including recently the Toronto and Peel regions in Ontario, have introduced strict new capacity limits on places of worship as they work to get a handle on the surge of COVID-19 cases. **In Ontario, places of worship in lockdown regions will now be permitted to only accommodate a maximum of 10 persons.** As such, *masajid* in the affected areas should be closed to the public with immediate effect, while continuing to maintain the rights of the *masjid* – daily *salaah* will continue by staff and limited volunteers.

As Muslims, we believe that nothing, including this pandemic, happens without *Allah's* permission. The *Qur'an* states, Say, “Never will we be struck except by what *Allah* has decreed for us; He is our protector.” And upon *Allah* let the believers rely (*At-Taubah: 51*). The Prophet ﷺ also gave us these specific guidelines to navigate during a plague: *Sa'd (R. A.)* reported, the Prophet ﷺ said, “If you hear of a plague in a land, then do not go into it. If it happens in a land where you are, then do not go out of it.” (*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 5396, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2218*). Further, *Abu Sa'eed al-Khudree (R. A.)* reported, the Messenger of *Allah* ﷺ said, “There should be neither harming (*darar*) nor reciprocating harm (*dirar*).” (*40 Hadith Nawawi 32*)

Finally, the general Muslim population is afforded a concession to be absent from *Jumu'ah* and congregational prayers and instead to pray *Dhuhr* on Friday and the other five daily prayers in their homes, out of fear of spreading the virus.

Given the above, if you are in an identified lockdown region, please adhere to the following:

1. Do not attend the *masajid*.
2. Do not travel to neighbouring regions not affected by a lockdown to attend *masajid*.
3. Do not complicate matters for *masajid* administrations by demanding an increased number of prayers of smaller acceptable sizes, based on regional limits.

Canadian Muslim COVID-19 Task Force

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With special endorsement:

Canadian Council of Imams

Muslim Medical Association of Canada

