

ISD Preparedness & Response to Covid-19

The Islamic Society of Denton (ISD) faces the difficult challenge of responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19), which the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11th, 2020. At this time we would like to assure everyone that we prioritize the health, safety and well being of our members, congregants, and visitors. Please know that the ISD is vigilantly monitoring the COVID-19 situation around the clock and have taken precautions to ensure the safety of the ISD community.

Our hearts and thoughts go out to the people who have been affected by this unprecedented event and we appreciate the first responders, healthcare workers, our local communities, and governments around the world who are on the front line working to contain this coronavirus.

The leadership of the ISD is actively monitoring recommendations and instructions from the Denton County Health Department, the Texas State Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Denton County issued a Disaster Declaration on March 13th, 2020. The President of the United States declared a national emergency on March 13th, 2020. Events have and continue to be rapidly unfolding.

The leadership of the ISD has also reviewed the guidelines suggested by the Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA) and the joint Covid-19 statement by ISNA, IMANA, AMHP & the FCNA. In keeping with the guidelines suggested by our Imam and the North Texas Imam Council (NTIC), and in consultation with local medical leadership, the ISD has adopted the following precautionary measures effective immediately:

1. March 20th, 2020 Jum'uah prayer may be cancelled. ISD leadership will make a determination on Wednesday, March 18th, 2020 and inform the community by 7pm the same day.
2. ALL programs hosted by the ISD or at the ISD are suspended till further notice.
3. ISD Sunday School is cancelled March 22nd. Future cancellations may be instituted based on the DISD (Denton Independent School District) calendar.
4. No congregating in groups at any time on Masjid premises unless social distancing is observed (a minimum of 6 feet between people must be maintained).
5. At this time the 5 daily prayers salah's are continuing (Fajr, Duhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha) with the following provisions:
 - a. Social distancing must be maintained during the prayer
 - b. Congregants immediately leave the premises afterwards.
 - c. The masjid will be locked 15 minutes after each prayer. Loitering on the masjid premises for extended periods of time is not permitted.
 - d. All people entering the masjid for prayer must bring their own prayer rug.
 - e. The ISD requires any members who have traveled to a country or region with a [Level 2 or 3 CDC Travel Health Notice](#) to stay home for 14 days after returning from their trip before coming to the masjid.
6. The ISD is instituting measures to ensure high-touch areas of the masjid are cleaned and disinfected every day to minimize the risk of exposure.

7. All sick individuals are instructed to avoid congregational prayer at the masjid.
8. The ISD highly encourages ALL high-risk individuals to avoid coming to the masjid till further notice. High-risk individuals are:
 - a. Those individuals aged 60 and over.
 - b. Individuals suffering from underlying chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes.
 - c. Individuals that are immune-compromised, post-operative, or pregnant.
9. Till further notice, no one is permitted on the second floor of the masjid or in the community center.

Precautionary measures everyone should be doing to get ready for Covid-19:

1. Stock up on supplies
2. Take everyday precautions to limit your exposure to the illness by keeping space between yourself and others.
3. When going out in public, maintain social distance (a minimum of 6 feet between yourself and others), wash your hands often and keep away from people who are sick.
4. Avoid crowds. (Refer to the recommendations of your local, state and federal health care authorities.)
5. Avoid cruise or air travel as much as possible.
6. Stay at home as much as possible.

Board of Directors
Islamic Society of Denton