

Declaration of the Triangle Imams Council on Suspension of Friday & Daily Prayers due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

March 19, 2020

With heavy hearts and firm resolve, the following mosques announce that we have made the difficult decision to suspend all on-site services and activities, including daily congregational prayers and *Jumu'ah* prayers, until further notice due to the growing COVID-19 pandemic:

Apex Mosque

Islamic Association of Raleigh

Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center

Jamaat Ibad Ar-Rahman

As-Salaam Islamic Center

Masjid King Khalid at Shaw University

Burlington Masjid

Masjid Mohammed

Divan Center

North Durham Islamic Association

Islamic Association of Cary
(Cary Masjid)

Muslim Youth and Community Center, RDU
(North Raleigh Masjid)

We have determined, in consultation with religious scholars and councils as well as a broad group of subject matter experts, that any gathering of people in our mosques under the current circumstances infringes upon one of the principal objectives of Islamic law: the preservation of human life. The Prophet (saw) says, “Do not cause harm nor reciprocate harm.” In order to assess how our mosques should address these objectives under the current circumstances, we consulted with religious scholars, public health experts, legal professionals, and community leaders. Multiple factors emerged in this process, including the health and well-being of the general public and particularly the vulnerable, the nature of the transmission and threat of the virus, and the extraordinary legal and policy steps being taken to reduce the impacts of this pandemic, such as the Governor’s order restricting public gatherings.

We interfaced with a number of senior religious scholars and councils to ensure our decision to close our mosques complies with Islamic law and appropriately accommodates the unprecedented circumstances of this pandemic. These scholars and councils include the [Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America \(AMJA\)](#) and the [Fiqh Council of North America \(FCNA\)](#). Across our Ummah a number of fatwa councils of Muslim-majority countries have issued similar rulings, such as [Saudi Arabia](#), [Egypt](#), [Turkey](#), [Kuwait](#), [UAE](#), and [Jordan](#). In addition, hundreds of mosques have already closed across the United States.

Worshippers should continue their *salah* at home during this time. Our ritual acts of worship, including *salah* and *Jumu'ah*, are contextualized by the Prophetic example and the authoritative texts of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*). In temporary emergency circumstances that prevent gatherings, we follow the example of the Prophet (ﷺ) in his statement, "Pray in your homes," with full conviction that we receive the same reward as if it was performed at the mosque. In such circumstances, *Dhuhr* is prayed at home in lieu of *Jumu'ah*. While technology has allowed Islamic education and messaging to propagate through virtual connections, Islamic jurisprudence does not permit technology to provide a virtual substitute for congregational *salah*. However, a number of Muslim institutions are offering virtual educational and spiritual programs to aid us in remaining connected to one another. May Allah accept it from us.

Our mindset and approach during this difficult time is best captured by Prophet Muhammad's (ﷺ) guidance, "The best of people are those most beneficial to people." We encourage each and every Muslim to think of others, and to do their part in volunteering, donating, and giving back to their surrounding community. Even as we are anguished to be separated from our beloved mosques, we encourage you to make your homes places of prayer by gathering your family for *salah*, and being pillars of supplication (*duaa*) and humility in asking Allah to lift this affliction from all humanity.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and reassess on a regular basis to determine when and how to begin restoring activities in our mosques once circumstances allow. In the meantime, we urge all community members to follow the guidance and recommendations of public health officials and do your part to take precautions against the spread of this disease. We beseech Allah to protect our community, bless us with patience and prayer, and lift this affliction from all humanity.