



No: MWD 43 WES 2021

Date: 13.04.2021

CIRCULAR

Subject: Guidelines for observance of rituals in connection with Ramazan month in Masjids in the context of COVID-19 – Regarding.

The steep increase in the number of COVID 19 cases daily calls for strict compliance of COVID Appropriate Behavior (CAB) , especially during the upcoming month of Ramazan & the concerned rituals , during which the people tend to congregate in large numbers. The following guidelines are issued herewith for strict compliance in the larger interest of the Public Health.

A. The masjids in containment zones shall remain closed till the zone is denotified.

B. Only those outside containment zones are allowed to open-up.

- Persons above 60 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below 10 years are advised to stay at home.
- The preventive measures include simple public health measures that are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all persons in these places at all times.

These include:

1. Large gatherings/congregation continues to remain prohibited
2. Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 2 meters (6 feet) at all times.
3. Specific markings on the floor (square/circle) shall be made to manage the queue and ensure physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) in the premises.

4. Use of face masks shall be mandatory
5. Entry of visitors shall be staggered to avoid crowding
6. Cough etiquette to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly in closed bins.
7. A trained volunteer shall perform thermal scanning at entry. Persons having temperature of $\geq 37.5^{\circ}$ C or $\geq 99.5^{\circ}$ F or symptoms of cough, cold, throat pain and difficulty in breathing shall not be allowed inside and referred to seek medical consultation.
8. Posters/standees on preventive measures about COVID-19 shall be displayed prominently. Audio and Video clips to spread awareness on preventive measures for COVID-19 shall be regularly played.
9. Provision shall be made for hand washing with liquid soap and water or hand sanitizers shall be made available at entrance and appropriate places.
10. Preferably separate entry and exits for visitors shall be organized
11. Proper crowd management in the parking lots and outside the premises shall be duly followed to maintain physical distancing
12. Any shops, stalls, cafeteria etc., outside and within the premises shall follow physical distancing norms at all times. Hand sanitizers shall be made available.
13. Arrangement to be made in such a way that adequate physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) is maintained.
14. Avoid physical contact while greeting each other.
15. Common prayer mats shall be avoided and devotees shall bring their own prayer mat or piece of cloth which they shall take back with them.
16. During iftar, the musallies shall be advised to break their fast in their homes and come to masjid only for prayers, do not bring any food items inside the masjid for any reason.
17. Taraweeh namaz shall be performed by taking all the precautions mentioned and if possible two/three jamat can be made.
18. Good sanitation shall be maintained within the premises including hand & foot-

washing stations/areas and toilets.

19. Frequent cleaning and disinfection of all the areas shall be done by the management.
20. Proper disposal of face covers / masks / gloves left over by musallies and/or employees shall be ensured
21. Spitting & nose blowing shall be strictly prohibited.
22. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.
23. In case of a suspect or confirmed case in the premises:
 - a. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
 - b. Provide a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
 - c. Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic).
 - d. A risk assessment shall be undertaken by the district health authority and accordingly further action is initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
 - e. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.

The specific guidelines in this order are required to be followed strictly in masjids in order to save the lives of Citizens and to arrest the spread of Corona Virus to the fellow Citizens. Any violation of these Guidelines will attract the punitive provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Mutawalli /Management Committee:

- Common prayer mats should be avoided and musallies should bring their own prayer mat (Jaye-namaz) or piece of cloth which they may take back with them
- Instructions in vernacular language on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently. The Do's and Dont's for the Musallies to be announced in loudspeaker before Namaz
- Disinfection of entire area of Masjid after Taraweeh / Isha Namaz and at regular intervals.
- Mark signs in the alternate rows for positioning the Musallies during Jamath with six (6) feet distance in between shall be done.
- Shoes/footwear to be kept in separate slots for everyone away from the Masjid.
- Ensure entry of Musallis in the Masjid formulating the Queue.
- The Management Committees to notify the maximum number of Musallis can be accommodated in the Masajid during Taraweeh and other Farz Namaz and shall close the gates once the Musallis occupy the slots.

- Mark signs in the alternate rows for positioning the Musallies during Jamath with six (6) feet distance in between shall be done as far as possible.
- Make arrangements of Imams for one or more Jamath as per the strength of Musallies.
- Jumma Namaz timing is to be notified as under if necessary : 12:45 to 01:15 p.m., 01:30 to 02:00 p.m., 02:30 to 03:00 p.m.
- The extra Musallis may be allowed to wait outside the Masjid following physical distancing AND OFFER Namaz after completion of first batch.
- Makhtab, Madarsa or Religious class inside the Masjid premises shall not be allowed
- Formation of Halqah, Recitation of Religious books in groups and any group discussions shall not be allowed in the Masjid.
- During iftar, the musallies shall be advised to break their fast in their homes and come to masjid only for prayers, do not allow any food items inside the masjid for any reason.
- Taraweeh namaz shall be performed by taking all the precautions mentioned and if possible two jamat can be made.
- Do not provide the facility of common towels, napkins and caps inside the mosque.
- Do not allow the extra Musallis when the space becomes full in the Masjid. Request the Musalli to wait for the next batch of Jamath.
- Do not allow any Musalli to shake hands (Musahifa) or hugging with fellow Musallies.

Musallies:

- Musalli shall perform Taharath & Wazu (Ablution) in his home and come to Masjid.
- Perform sunnath & nawafil in the home, except Taraweeh during Ramzan by taking all necessary precautions mentioned above.
- Musallies will bring his own Jaye-Namaz (salath carpet) to the Masjid.
- During iftar, break the fast in your home and come to masjid only for prayers, do not bring any food items inside the masjid for any reason.
- The Musalli shall enter the Masjid for the Farz salath and take position in the specified marked slot of the row and maintain 6 feet physical distance from other musallies. In case of no slots available, wait for the next batch of Jamath outside the Masjid.

Imams:


- Longer zikr or duwa is restrained for allowing the next jamath to offer salath in the Masjid.
- Salath timings are to be fixed carefully in order to finish the Farz salath in one or more batches of Jamath in the permissible time. Give adequate publicity of these timings by announcements.
- Timely and Precise salath need to be performed looking to the number of Musallies arrived for offering the salath.
- Farz salath shall be started only when the Musallies have positioned themselves on the marked slots in the rows.
- Fajar & Maghrib salath need to be commenced & finished in permissible time as there is less time to perform it.
- Juma Qutba shall be precise and informative. Qutba-e-Awwal & Saani shall be finished within specified time.
- Do not allow longer zikr & duwa.

Mouzans:

- Masjid shall be opened 5 minutes earlier to the Azan.
- Preliminary arrangements may be made as per the directions of the management for smooth offering of Salath.
- Ensure cleanliness and co-ordinate with the other volunteers in the performance of their duties
- Co-ordinate with the Musallies in formulating the batches of Musallies in case of more number of Musallies
- Close the doors of Masjid immediately after the completion of Farz salath
- Remove the face covers/masks/gloves leftover or whatever belongings left by the Musallis in the Masjid.

The Management committee is responsible to ensure that these guidelines are strictly adhered to.

Every masjid shall form a Covid 19 safety committee to implement and monitor the guidelines as is contained in this document and if possible add other measure as deemed fit for ensuring that masjids are kept safe and the health of its members are not compromised.


Secretary to Government
Minority Welfare, Wakf & Hajj Department
Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru

Copy to,

1. District Collectors of all districts.
2. CEO, Zilla Panchayat of all districts.
3. Superintendent of Police of all districts.
4. Director, Minority Department, Bengaluru
5. CEO, Board of Aukaf, Bengaluru.
6. DHO, DS, DSO, Department of Health and Family Welfare, all districts.
7. District Officers, Minority Department, all districts.
8. District wakf officers of all districts for compliance and circulation to all the concerned.

Copy for kind information to,

1. Chief secretary, GOK, Vidhan Soudha, Bengaluru.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, GOK.