

## IN THIS ISSUE

### AMJA's STATEMENT ON THE CORONAVIRUS

### DR SALAH AL-SAWY: TAFSIR AND FATAWA, CORONAVIRUS

### PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU

### GIVE YOUR YOUTH NEW HEROES

## AMJA STATEMENT ON THE CORONAVIRUS

The world is currently in the harsh grip of Coronavirus COVID-19. As communities everywhere strategize on how to combat this global pandemic, Muslims may have questions on how this virus may impact their personal and community acts of worship. To address these concerns, the Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA) released the following statement:

### **AMJA's statement concerning coronavirus (COVID-19)**

All Praise Be to Allah , and May His Blessings and Peace Be on the Messenger of Allah,

The Assembly of Muslim Jurists in America (AMJA) received several inquiries regarding the current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the proper response by the masjids and individual Muslims. In response, AMJA issued the following statement:

#### *First: concerning the managements of the Islamic centers*

It is not permissible for the masjids and Islamic centers to suspend the congregational prayers and jumuaah because of the spread of the virus in the United States, unless the local public health authorities in a particular city advise the suspension of services at the houses of worship and avoidance of large public gatherings. In the event of that development, the masjid managements should comply with such instructions. This would be a sufficient excuse to pray jumuaah at home (as dhuhr) until the restriction is removed.

It is permissible for the masjid managements to demand those with flu symptoms to wear masks during the congregational prayers. It is also permissible to assign a room for them or a designated area in the prayer hall, and to advise them to avoid handshaking with the other worshippers and follow the proper precautions to prevent the transmission of the disease. The masjid managements should follow the updates that are periodically issued by the public health agencies like CDC and comply with their instructions.

#### *Second: concerning the Muslim public*

The permissibility of missing jumuaah and congregational prayers out of fear of the disease depends on several variables. As for the daily congregational prayers, the matter is simpler since they are not obligatory according to the majority. The majority of those who considered them obligatory did not demand their performance at a masjid. As for the jumuaah, it is not permissible for adult men who are otherwise required to attend it to miss it except in the case of justifiable, not conjectural, fear. What matters in this regard is the instructions of the public health authorities. If they advise the avoidance of all



public gatherings, then the epidemic has reached a level making that fear justifiable. As for the higher risk groups, such as old people and those with chronic disease, they should follow the advice of their primary healthcare providers. They are most entitled to concessions.

People with symptoms of the disease (which are like those of flu) should avoid coming to the masjids if they suspect that they may be infected until they check with their healthcare providers and ensure they are not. This is because the harm of spreading this virus is much greater than that of bothering the people with the odor of garlic; and the Prophet (pbuh) said, "He who eats of this plant (garlic) should not come near our masjid and should not bother us with the odor of garlic."

We ask Allah for safety and wellbeing for ourselves and all people.

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## DR SALAH AL-SAWY: TAFSIR OF SURAH AN NISAA AND FATAWA, CORONAVIRUS

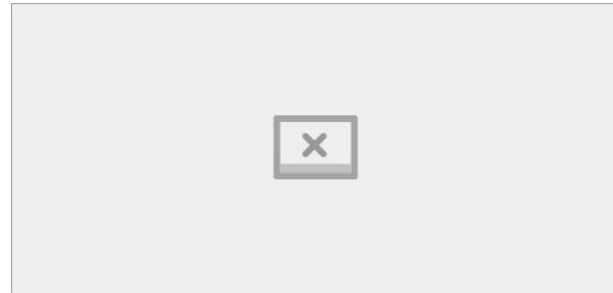
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Allah (swt) tells us in **Surah An-Nisaa ayat 163** : *"Indeed, We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], as We revealed to Noah and the prophets after him. And we revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, the Descendants, Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the book [of Psalms]."*

This is the ayat that our dear **Dr Salah Al-Sawy** recently explained in his weekly tafsir series. In his **weekly fatawa session he addressed a question on the Coronavirus**. Watch both videos below and visit our [Facebook page](#) to see other lectures. In addition to the tafsir of Surah Nisaa, Dr Salah has also been conducting a short tafsir on Surah Az-Zumar every week, as well as khatiras after fajr almost daily.



فتاوى على الهواء مباشرة للدكتور صلاح الصاوي  
Weekly Fatawa - March 3, 2020



محاضرة التفسير للدكتور صلاح الصاوي - أواخر سورة النساء 163  
Surah An-Nisaa 163

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## PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU

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In times of uncertainty or crisis, we must remember the role we each can play for the good of the society. As the Coronavirus continues to sweep through the globe, our personal response matters.

Muslims have a responsibility not to feed into an atmosphere of panic or misinformation. We must educate ourselves and ensure that any information we implement or share is from credible health sources. Don't be tempted to disseminate everything you see regarding the Coronavirus on Whatsapp, Facebook and other social media outlets, unless you are absolutely sure about its accuracy.

We also have a responsibility to employ the necessary measures prescribed by health authorities- this applies for all illnesses, not just the Coronavirus. Do we regularly take the time to wash our hands thoroughly? Do we adequately cover our coughs and sneezes? Do we stay home when ill to avoid infecting others? The CDC as well as local health departments have provided guidelines for individuals, as well as organizations such as schools, places of worship, and businesses to help us in our planning

and response. (See a list of CDC COVID-19 community resources [here](#))

We have a responsibility to speak out and act against prejudice. It is sad that in some areas, people with Asian backgrounds are being targeted with racist comments and behavior because people think they might have the virus. Undoubtedly, this behavior goes against our Islamic etiquette and offers no solutions to the problem at hand.

Finally, we have a responsibility to make dua. Truly Allah is the infinite healer and the facilitator of all affairs. He makes that which is difficult easy. And the Prophet (saw) would constantly make dua against all manner of calamities including serious illnesses. May Allah grant us His mercy.



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## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2020

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Spring Classes Resume	March 14



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