

### **Temporary Suspension of Jummah Services**

(New York, NY, 03/13/2020) - Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York in coordination with the COVID-19 Task Force, strongly advises mosques to suspend Jummah services today, March 13, in an effort to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

This difficult decision was made in coordination and consultation with various imams, mosques, and healthcare experts. As of now, the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout New York State is overbearing on the healthcare system and places the most vulnerable in our community at risk. As a community of faith, it remains our collective and social responsibility to protect the weak and elderly, and we hope that temporary suspensions now will require fewer suspensions in the future.

Ultimate decisions to suspend Jummah services remain with local mosque leadership and communities. Should communities decide to continue with services as usual, Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York advises practicing extreme precautionary measures of sanitization, social distancing, and limiting congregation numbers. We urge mosques to turn away the elderly, those with weaker immune systems, and anyone exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms. Most importantly, we ask the community to remain calm and united on difficult matters, so that we may get through these difficult times with ease.