

Advisory Re: Phase 4 City Guidelines & Mosque Reopenings

Monday, July 20th, New York City officially entered the final phase, Phase 4 of reopening. Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York is advising the Muslim community to continue to remain cautious and careful in their activities. Coronavirus still poses a great risk to the community and has the possibility to spike up again if proper measures are not put in place and enforced.

After consultations with Imams, medical experts, local leadership, and state and city officials, it has been deduced that mosques continue to pose dangers to the Muslim community due to the nature of close contact in prayer, ablution stations, and shared prayer carpets. Due to extenuating circumstances, it is suggested to minimize praying outside of the home. As mosques open up, it remains **mandatory** for them to follow all the proper precautions and protocols to ensure the safety of the community.

Mosques **must**, in accordance with the state requirements, fill-out and prepare safety plans detailing their resources and capacities to ensure the safety of their community and congregation.

Such protocols **must include, but are not limited to:**

- Restricting the maximum capacity for indoor spaces to 33% of its original capacity **or** a maximum capacity of 50 people for outdoor spaces
- Maintenance of social distance at least 6 feet apart.
- Wearing and/or providing masks to all congregants and staff at all times.
- Putting up signs or tape/markers to decrease bidirectional foot traffic and maintain social distancing
- Maintain routine sanitization protocols and provide hand sanitizer and/or other disinfectants.
- Recommending that individuals bring their own prayer rugs and perform ablution at home.

For a comprehensive list of city and state protocols, [click here](#).

For a reference on how to create a safety plan for your mosque, [click here](#).

To access the safety plan template, [click here](#).

For questions, guidance, or assistance in filling out safety plans, contact info@shuranewyork.org or dial 311.