

03/17/2021

RE: COVID-19 Taraweeh Guidelines

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan in less than a month, Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York is making the following recommendations for hosting Taraweeh prayers in a safe and COVID-compliant manner. While New York City is in the process of vaccination, it remains important to continue taking all precautions of social distancing and mask wearing until the number of fully vaccinated people reach high thresholds. New variants of the COVID-19 virus are highly contagious and still pose a risk to the overall community.

The following guidelines and recommendations have been made in consultation with scholars.

1. All masjid **must** maintain CDC and New York State guidelines of limited capacity. Currently indoor capacity is limited to 50%, and may be subject to change.
2. Masjid **may** benefit from surveying their community members for input on how to structure their taraweeh prayers from the following recommendations provided.
3. Masjid **should avoid** doing Qur'an khatms during taraweeh. Instead, we encourage the recitation of short surah taraweeh. Alternatives should be provided for the completion of Qur'an, such as:
 - a. Splitting Qur'an khatm recitation through the 5 daily prayers from fajr - 'isha.
 - b. Hosting zoom sessions for Qur'an khatm recitations.
4. Masjid **should** have 8 rakat sessions instead of 20 rakat sessions. Alternatively, masjid may host one 20 rakat session as the last session after providing multiple sessions of 8 rakat.
5. Masjid **should not** host iftaar indoors. Masjid may distribute grab-and-go meals according to CDC guidelines of social distancing and mask wearing.

The following models are dependent upon your space availability and congregation size. It is upto your masjid and community to make the decision that best fits your interests.

Model 1: Multiple taraweeh sessions and advanced registration

- Masajid may create registration forms or sign-up sheets with limited slots for each session. You may create registration forms through eventbrite/google forms/doodle polls to track the number of attendees signing up until 50% capacity is reached.

Model 2: Alternative venue

- Smaller masajid may explore the option of finding an alternate large indoor/outdoor venue with a registration system.

Model 3: Hybrid System

- Masajid may offer multiple taraweeh sessions in their space **in addition to** offering an alternate venue to accommodate as many attendees as possible.

These recommendations are not an exhaustive list of all possibilities. If your masjid would like to explore other COVID-compliant options to host taraweeh, you may do so. For any questions or concerns, please contact info@shuranewyork.org. You may also refer to shuranewyork.org/covid19 for updates.