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Re-opening the Centre after the Covid Pandemic

Wessex Jamaat

Who can participate in programmes in the centre?

As per government guidelines, we advise that anyone over the age of 70 or in the extremely vulnerable category (i.e. those who were required to shield) should **not** attend the centre for programmes. For everyone else, the decision to attend the centre should be made by each individual, taking into account their personal risk factors as well as their attitude towards risk. To inform this decision, the Jamaat will provide access to an online tool to allow individuals to assess their own risk. Anyone with active Covid infection or any symptoms of Covid or anyone self-isolating due to possible exposure to Covid must not attend the centre for programmes. This will be made clear on the registration form and through visible signage at the entrance of the centre. Only children over the age of 10 who can wear a face mask will be permitted to attend programmes. Any children attending will need to be under the constant supervision of an adult from the same household.

Social Distancing

Attendees will be required to maintain a 2-metre distance from other attendees not belonging to the same household. This will apply when entering the centre, in corridors and inside the main hall. To aid this, tape floor markers will be in place in the corridor to indicate a 2-metre distance and stickers/chairs will be visible on the floor of the main hall to indicate where attendees should sit.

Face Masks

As per government guidance, attendees will be required to wear face masks within the centre unless any of the government exclusions apply. Speakers or reciters at the centre will not be required to wear a face mask when speaking/reciting.

Maximum capacity within the Centre

Assuming all classrooms are opened, the maximum capacity to ensure social distancing is 35 gents and 35 ladies. However, we will set a lower maximum initially. Only if we are confident that we can introduce greater numbers will we increase the maximum towards the capacity.

Salaah Arrangements

Evening programmes will start after Salaah time to ensure shorter programme durations and to reduce movement within the centre. Where required (e.g. Salaatul Jumu'ah), those praying will be required to maintain 1m social distancing, wearing face masks. Floor stickers 1-metre apart will assist people in where to stand. Mu'mineen will be required to bring their own Mohr/Turbah, Tasbih and Chaadar if required.

Ventilation

To maintain sufficient ventilation, all windows will remain open during programmes. Whilst the weather permits, the front doors and side fire exits will also remain open. Attendees may wish to bring sufficient layers of clothing bearing this in mind.

Cleaning

The centre, including toilets and hard surfaces, will be cleaned after every programme.





Hand-washing and ablution (Wudhu) facilities

As per government guidelines, attendees will have access to handwashing facilities, which will be in the Wudhu area. Handwash and paper towels will be available. Attendees will be encouraged to perform Wudhu from home. However, they will be able to do so in the centre if required. There will be a maximum of 2 people in the Wudhu area at any one moment and a one-way system will be in operation through the Wudhu room. Signage will be visible, instructing people that gargling, spitting and nasal rinsing will not be permitted. Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Attendees will be encouraged to either wash their hands or use hand sanitiser on arrival. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the building.

Toilet facilities

The main toilets on the gents' and ladies' sides will be closed. However, the disabled toilet on both sides will remain open for use if required. Attendees will be encouraged to use the toilets at home before attending and programmes will be kept shorter than usual to reduce the requirement for toilet use. The toilets will be cleaned after every programme and disinfectant wipes will also be available in the toilets. Slippers will be removed from the toilets and attendees will be required to wear their own shoes.

Tabarruk

There will be no Tabarruk served at the centre initially. This will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Temperature checks

To ensure further safety, temperature checks will be performed on all attendees at the entrance. Attendees (and anyone attending with them) will not be permitted to enter if their temperature is 37.8 degrees or higher. To avoid disappointment, attendees may wish to check their own temperature at home.

Allocation of attendees

Attendees will be required to register in advance of the event. If demand exceeds capacity for an event, spaces will be allocated by the EC in a way that strives for fair allocation.

YouTube Broadcasting

Events will be broadcasted live on the Jamaat YouTube channel to allow those not at the centre to participate.

NHS Test and Trace

When registering online, people will be asked to provide their contact details to assist with NHS Test and Trace. Provision of contact details is not a requirement for attendance and consent must be obtained. As per test and trace guidelines, the Jamaat will store this information for at least 21 days.

Attendees who become unwell

Attendees who develop symptoms of Covid within 14 days of attending a programme at mosque should inform the Jamaat immediately by emailing info@almahdi.org.uk

Volunteers

Volunteers will be in place at programmes as marshals to ensure the guidelines are implemented fully. Attendees are required to follow the instructions of volunteers at all times and approach them for any queries on the day.

Review

This document may be reviewed and updated at any time by the Executive Committee.

