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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Measures Introduced to Safeguard Public at JMIC

Jami Mosque and Islamic Centre as of Wednesday 18 March 2020 will be suspending all public programmes and activities, including daily congregational prayers, Friday Jummah prayers, evening and weekend madrasa and regular lectures until further notice.

This decision was reached by the Council of Management following lengthy discussions and taking on board UK government guidelines, guidance from Islamic scholars, Muslim Doctors and MCB, BIMA, and BBSI. As Muslims we have a duty of care not just to ourselves but also towards others. Our religion teaches us that averting harm takes precedence over acquiring benefit and averting harm from others takes absolute priority.

It is now well established that Coronavirus (Covid-19) is transmitted from an infected person, who may or may not show any symptoms, to others through close contact or touching infected surfaces which then enters the body through the mouth, nose or eyes. The daily cases locally, nationally and globally is increasing at an alarming rate. Elderly people and those with underlying health conditions are at great risk from this virus which can be life threatening. As the mosque has a significant number of people daily visiting the mosque, we cannot continue putting them at risk.

We ask everyone to instead pray their daily salah at home, which can be done in congregation with others in their household. Normal Dhur prayer should be offered instead of Jummah on Friday. Children should be encouraged to continue learning their madrasa studies from home. We are exploring online teaching to support our madrasah student as well as regular online lectures for adults.

Our Imams and administration staff will be contactable via email and phone to offer support and advice. If you are tested positive and require any additional help, please call us to discuss what we can offer. Likewise we are urging people to join our volunteers to provide community support. We are also exploring what new services we may need to provide to support our community in the coming weeks and months.

We are aware of the issues surrounding burial for Muslims who die from Covid-19 and have been liaising with relevant bodies to ensure Shariah compliance as much as possible. We do not have the facility to offer funeral services or Janaza prayer facility at our mosque for people who have passed away from Coronavirus, however funeral service and Janaza will be available for all other deaths. Please call our office for signposting to the relevant organisation for help in this regards. If you have been in close contact with a person who has passed away due to Coronavirus, you must not come to the mosque and must self isolate.

We urge all Muslims to keep an eye out for their neighbours and those in need whatever their background or religion. This pandemic is not a time for hysteria, but rather for humanity to show its care and compassion for others. Allah (God) says in the Qur'an "And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient" [Al Quran:155]. We urge everybody to be considerate and buy in reasonable quantity and allow others to purchase everyday essentials as well.

We pray that Allah ease the suffering of those who have been afflicted with the virus and protects us all through these testing times. Amin.

'And whoever fears Allah - He will make for him a way out. And will provide for him from where he does not expect. And whoever relies upon Allah - then He is sufficient for him.'
(Qur'an 65:2-3)