**For the most up to date answers to your general questions regarding COVID-19, please refer to:**

* [**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2019-nCoV_Web_FAQ_Final_02.07.20_680693_7.pdf)
* [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/)

**For additional details on specific actions and guidance for the MCWS community, please refer to the below FAQs**

**What steps has MCWS taken to address the current concerns related to COVID-19?**

MCWS has established a COVID-19 Task Force to develop and plan for any drastic measures to curb the spread of the virus. The task force includes a wide representation of specialists including public health experts, infectious disease physicians, religious scholars, educators, communications specialists and community representatives with the intent to leverage expertise and cross collaborate. The task force will actively consult and assist the MCWS Board, Shura and Imams to make well informed decisions that are in the best interest of our community.

**What if I am uninsured, do not have access to adequate resources and am concerned that I am at risk of COVID-19?**

MCWS has set up a dedicated hotline to address any community member needs and to connect you with volunteer health care professionals in the community. You can access this hotline by calling **734-489-9649.**

**What additional precautions is MCWS taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the facility?**

Effective immediately, there will be provision of hand sanitizers, Kleenex and Clorox wipes available at key vantage points throughout the masjid. In addition, we have increased efforts to replenish soap in the bathrooms and have trash bins emptied. Further, we will provide ongoing reminders to musalees that are ill to stay home.

As always, we request your cooperation in keeping the facilities clean and additional diligence to protect yourself and others from the spread of virus.

**Will MCWS be modifying or cancelling scheduled events and programming?**

Please be sure to check the website for the most current updates.

The MCWS COVID-19 Task force will continue to monitor and assess events and programming based on guidance from local health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as the situation evolves. We are simultaneously investigating web conferencing options to provide online access to programming in the event that we need to enact a contingency plan. We will be sure to notify the community with any modifications to programming as final decisions are made.

**What actions should I be taking to prevent the spread of virus?**

First and foremost, we request that you take precautions for yourself and for those around you. Worship responsibly using the following guidelines:

* **Stay Clean** – Wash your hands with soap and water often before and after prayer. Use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol
* **No Handshakes, Hugging** – Social distancing must be practiced. Avoid physical contact. Avoid touching your eyes/nose/mouth.
* **Essential Individuals Only** – Individuals for whom Jumuah is not obligatory should pray at home.
* **Bring your own prayer mat** – Pray and sit on your own prayer mat during the congregation. Wash your prayer mat regularly.
* **Cover your cough and sneeze** – Sneeze and cough into a tissue or your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and wash your hands.
* **Stay Home** – The sick, elderly and immunocompromised should stay home. Exercise healthy precautions. No exceptions!

**Hand sanitizer has alcohol in it. Is it najs/ haram?**

Hand sanitizer is made of synthetic alcohol, not wine, and is not considered khamr. Most scholars - including MCWS leadership - agree (with some minority exceptions) that regular hand sanitizer is not najs or haram. For the safety of our jama’ah MCWS encourages you to use hand sanitizer frequently.

**What guidance can you provide if you have elderly or sick relatives at home?**

Since coronavirus is thought to spread mainly between people who have close contact (within 6 feet) with each other, those who are caring for someone suspected of having COVID-19 should also consider wearing a mask to limit the spread of infection. Please also add due diligence and avoid coming to the masjid or further expose yourself to large crowds in the event that you have been exposed.

**Should I be wearing a mask to protect myself from getting COVID-19?**

No, facemasks do not protect you in most situations and are not recommended for healthy people. Facemasks should only be used by healthcare workers or people taking care of someone with COVID-19. People with symptoms that could be COVID-19—such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath are recommended to avoid coming to the masjid. In addition, elderly and immunocompromised are highly recommended to avoid gatherings.