

OPEN LETTER:

ORGANISED CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP DURING RAMADAN

Asalaam-u-alakum and salutations,

Warwickshire County Council, EQuIP, Warwickshire Police would like to wish the Muslim community of Warwickshire a Ramadan Mubarak.

COVID-19 has made the last year very challenging for us all and has disrupted the way we all do things. Last year religious celebrations were severely restricted and that Masajids and community centres were being closed during Ramadan and Eid due to the Government lockdown directive.

This year we welcome the guidance to allow places of worship to remain open and stay safe. There is guidance to manage [the safe use of places of worship](#) and [celebrating religious festivals during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

The Masajids in Warwickshire have been invited to a series of webinars to engage with Public Health, Warwickshire Trading Standards and Community Safety, Environmental Health and other partners to discuss how to celebrate Ramadan while keeping the community safe. A detailed review of risk assessments is required to manage the increased demand from the services of the Masjid.

The greatest risk to the community exposure and transmission of COVID-19 during Ramadan is the Tarawih prayers. We have discussed various options in consultation with the Masjid representatives and have agreed on the following fundamental principles that must be followed to ensure we keep the congregation of the Masjid safe:

- 2-metre distance must be maintained at all times between individuals for Tarawih prayers, even with those that have had the vaccination
- All users must take regular LFT COVID-19 tests
- Ventilation must be increased in indoor communal spaces
- The time spent indoors in communal areas must be limited to essential worship
- Breaking of the fast must be done with food and drink brought in by each congregant for their own consumption
- Manage social distancing of the entrances and exits

The Government have set out a [roadmap out of lockdown](#) on the easing of the COVID-19 restrictions and once these come into force, our statement will reflect these. We will continue to monitor local data, national guidance and meet regularly with the Muslim community who lead on organising communal worship throughout Ramadan.



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In partnership with:

