

## Guidance for Ramadan during COVID-19 Pandemic



Ramadan Mubarak to all Muslims in Leeds.

The holy month of Ramadan is a time for reflection and renewal and we fully appreciate the significance of this month for the Muslim community in Leeds and we understand that during this time, families and communities traditionally come together to take part in the breaking of the fast, to offer prayers in the evening at the mosque and to spend the last 10 days in the mosque for worship of Allah in isolation.

This Ramadan will be different.

On the 23rd of March 2020 the UK government officially announced all places of worship should close. This has now been extended for a further three weeks from the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2020. This period of time extends significantly into the month of Ramadan.

During this coronavirus emergency we have to remain within the houses that we live in and only go out for essential food or a brief period of exercise, maintaining 2m distances while outside of the home and washing our hands regularly.

The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board and the Muslim Council of Britain has advised that communities must pray from home and must not come together for worship.

Leeds City Council has worked closely with Muslim faith and community leaders to support Muslims in Leeds to meet their spiritual obligations. It remains essential that all Mosques and Madrassas continue with the suspension of all gatherings and remain closed to prayer, to ensure that we protect each other and save lives and we ask that everyone please:

- Observe Ramadan in the house that you live and do not go to family or friends houses or meet them outside of the home.
- Pray at home, in the house that you live in with the people you share the house with and do not attend any mosque or the houses of family or friends to pray.
- Do not leave the house to distribute food but donate online or via food banks instead.

Muslims in Leeds are already doing so much to support the efforts across the city at this difficult time and Leeds City Council acknowledges the difficulties that the current restrictions place on your activities during Ramadan and recognises the sacrifices that are being made by you and people of other faiths in the city.

Thank you for your cooperation and for all you do to contribute to the civic and religious life of Leeds.

**Stay Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives.**

