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COVID-19: THE THIRD WAVE

Amidst the very rapid rise of a third wave of Covid-19 infections and fatalities, consultation between the Fatwa committee has taken place, in tandem with the panel of medical professionals, from these deliberations emerged the following directives:

1. SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- 1.1 The greatest fueller of the present wave must be acknowledged to be **social gatherings** within our community, be they of a religious or mundane nature.
- 1.2 Our responsibility as Muslims, as well as citizens of this country, demands that we **take active steps towards curbing the spread** of this devastating virus.
- 1.3 The MJC therefore makes an urgent appeal to the Muslim community to **minimize or cancel all social gatherings or events**.
- 1.4 We strongly encourage the community to **adopt alternative virtual methods** of social interaction and gathering, such as Zoom and Skype.
- 1.5 Only the **bare minimum** of individuals should attend **funerals**.
- 1.6 Beyond social gatherings, members of the community, **of all ages**, are exhorted to **remain indoors** as far as possible, and not to leave homes for anything that is not necessary.
- 1.7 'Ulamā and imams are encouraged to record and circulate for the community such talks and lectures that will fortify them in the days that lie ahead.

2. MASĀJID

- 2.1 The MJC directs that all masājid that **cannot implement the Covid-19 protocols should close** their doors for congregational ṣalāh, including both Jumū'ah and Jamā'ah, till further notice.
- 2.2 In line with the Sunnah, adhān must continue from the masājid, together with the exhortation to perform ṣalāh at home.
- 2.3 Masājid that are **able to afford, implement and rigorously enforce Covid-19 protocols may remain open**, strictly within the limits allowed by Level 3 regulations.
- 2.4 Elderly, those with comorbidities as well as those who are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms **should remain at home**.
- 2.5 Even as we address this directive to our community, **let us increase in our 'ibādah and raise our hands in du'ā in hope that Allah brings speedy and comprehensive relief from this pandemic**.

3. OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 Those who are eligible are encouraged to be vaccinated, in the words of our late Mufti Taha Karaan ﷺ: **"Please take the vaccine. It is not only the responsible thing to do for yourself and your community, it is the choice that demonstrates your trust in the promise of Allāh."**
- 3.2 In all things that we do and decisions that we take, we remain conscious that our final and ultimate responsibility is before Allah.

﴿والله يقول الحق وهو يهدي السبيل﴾ [الأحزاب 4]

And Allah declares the Truth, and He alone guides to the Right Way. [33:4]

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