

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy

In the name of *Allah* the most Merciful, All Praise is due to *Allah* and may *Allah* raise the rank of our Master Mohammad ﷺ .

As we face the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19, Darulfatwa Australia – the Islamic High Council of Australia wanted to share with you its thoughts and the actions we are taking to safeguard the health and safety of the people of our nation, particularly the Australian Muslim community during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

First, as Muslims we rely solely on *Allah* the Creator of everything and are firm in our conviction that nothing has the power to exist and affect without the Will and Destining of *Allah* the One who has no partner with Him in His dominion and is clear of all imperfection and resemblance of His creation. For He is One who has bestowed upon us countless virtues, without Him being obligated to do so.

Our health is one of the abundant goodness that *Allah* has bestowed upon us. Hence, we have a duty to protect our wellbeing and maintain good health. Among the ways to achieve is to take precautionary measures to avoid ill health, indeed, a dirham of precaution is more effective than a quintal of treatment. Also, as you are well aware, Islam urges for the protection of one's health and wealth. Muslims know as certain that having complete reliance on *Allah* and accepting whatever He may decree, does not interfere in principle, with the practice of caution and taking measures to protect one's self and others from harm.

As a peak Islamic body representing Muslims of Diverse backgrounds in Australia, Darulfatwa Australia take pride in observing the Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws required by service providers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of our communities, members and their families. Thus, below is our policy reflecting on brief understanding of COVID-19 and the measures that Darulfatwa has taken upon its staff and member organizations to also help stop the spread of the virus. These measures are made visible by signage on the walls of our premises and our policy online.

Understanding COVID-19

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus stemming from large family of viruses that cause respiratory infections and can spread quickly and widely, if protective measures are neglected. Symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection.

The people most at risk of getting the virus are those who have:

- Recently been in a high-risk country or region (mainland China, Iran, Italy or Korea)
- Been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19

Symptoms can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover fast while others may get very sick very quickly. People with coronavirus may experience:

- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue
- Shortness of breath

Those most at risk of serious infection are:

- People with compromised immune systems (such as people who have cancer) elderly people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (as they have higher rates of chronic illness)
- People with chronic medical conditions
- People in group residential settings
- People in detention facilities

The virus can spread from person to person through:

- Close contact with an infectious person
- Contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze
- Touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person, and then touching the mouth or face

Restrictions

The NSW Minister for Health has issued Public Health (COVID-19 Quarantine) Order 2020 under the Public Health Act 2010 dated 16 March 2020.

- Australian citizens and permanent residents returning to Australia must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.

Under the NSW Public Health Act 2010 No 127 Part-4 Division-4 Section-70, it is an offence not to comply with public health order Clause (1),

- A person who fails to comply with a requirement of a public health order is regarded as having committed an offence.

Preventative Measures at DARULFATWA AUSTRALIA

To prevent the spread of viruses, the board and all the staff are required to work from home where reasonably possible. Darulfatwa Australia is committed to providing its services to its member organizations and community the following means:

- Utilizing various social and communication media apps to connect with the community regularly
- Reaching out to the community and member organizations through the Islamic Community Radio 2MFM on live radio
- Allowing necessary visits to 1 person to the office, while observing safety precautions
 - All necessary visitors are advised to call and make an appointment first.
 - During necessary face to face everyone is expected to practise good hygiene and social distancing measures.

Good hygiene

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
- Dispose of tissues properly
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, including before and after eating and using the toilet
- Use effective hand sanitisers, when the use of soap and water is not practicable
- Clean and disinfect surfaces, where reasonable to do so

Social distancing

Social distancing is essential where reasonably practicable. This includes:

- Stay at home if you are unwell
- Avoid non-essential large or small gatherings
- Keep a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people whenever reasonably practicable:
- Wear a face mask when maintaining 1.5m distance is not reasonably applicable
- Cough and sneeze away from the person close to you, when it is not reasonably applicable to cough into your elbow or a tissue
- Limit the use of elevators to 1 person at a time
- Minimise physical contact, especially with people at higher risk such as people over 50years of age and those with existing health conditions.
- Wipe down the surfaces you handle

When unwell

- If you think you have symptoms of COVID-19, seeking medical attention is the obvious first step. Call ahead of time to book an appointment. Your doctor will decide if you fall within the testing criteria.
- If you are tested, you must stay at home until your results come back
- If you want to talk to someone about your symptoms first, call the Coronavirus Health Information Line for advice on 1800 020 080
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, you must stay at home and follow the Self Isolation Guidelines published by NSW Health to prevent it spreading to other people
- Inform management in the following events:
 - If you have been, or have potentially been, exposed to a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19 (even if the person who is suspected to have COVID-19 has not yet been tested), or
 - They have undertaken, or are planning to undertake, any travel
 - If you suspect a co-worker is displaying any symptoms

Self-isolation

If you are sick, do not come to work until cleared, avoiding contact with others and stay more than 1.5 metres away from people

Commitment

DARULFATWA AUSTRALIA, is committed to ensuring the good health of its communities. Continuity of upholding the good and avoiding the evil is important, so together we must strive to maintain a sense of normalcy during this unparalleled event. It is up to everyone to be responsible and vigilant to minimise the impact of the virus on our workplace. Clear, concise and open communication about factual events or findings are paramount to all our futures in this industry.

NSW Government Department of Health Self Isolation Guidelines: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Documents/covid-19-self-isolation-guidelines.pdf>

Public Health (COVID-19 Quarantine) Order 2020: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Documents/covid-19-quarantine-order-2020.pdf>

Australian Government Department of Health:
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19>

[Coronavirus Health Information Line Phone: 1800 020 080](tel:1800020080)

**Media office of Darulfatwa
Islamic High Council of Australia**