Towards an Islam where no one is left behind

Masjid al-Rabia Community Response to COVID-19

11 March 2020, 9pm CST
Chicago, Illinois

We at Masjid al-Rabia are following the City of Chicago’s COVID-19 Guidelines for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations and choosing to be proactive to ensure the health and safety of all our community members. This includes enacting a daily routine environmental cleaning, with additional cleaning procedures before and after prayer services. We are updating paid sick leave policy along with maintaining and expanding opportunities to work from home for staff, volunteers and student leadership. Our team is committed to serve our community as best we can and will update the situation every day as we envision a radically accessible world where no one is left behind.

In our commitment to accessibility every prayer, class and community meeting at Masjid al-Rabia is available online in real time. For now Friday prayers on site will continue as scheduled—with a modified service to limit close person-to-person contact—though we encourage all community members to make use of our online services so that everyone can participate and thrive in our vision of an Islam that is truly accessible for all.

You can join Masjid al-Rabia prayers, classes and community meetings online via Zoom using these links (all times in CST):

3/13-27th Jummah prayers every Friday at 1pm  link: https://zoom.us/j/441260733
3/18 6pm - Addiction Recovery Support:   link: https://zoom.us/j/627247174
3/20 6pm – Prayer Practice:   link: https://zoom.us/j/448813824
3/25 6pm – Inclusive Qur’an Study:   link: https://zoom.us/j/785890467

Many of us right now are feeling a dissonance between the deep love of our community meeting space and the responsibility to our broader community in the event of a pandemic. As an organization founded by and centering the needs of disabled Muslims, we are acutely aware of the responsibility that healthy or non-disabled people bear to keep our entire community safe. You may not be at a high risk for severe illness or complication, but there are others in your community who are. The precautions we take aren’t just for ourselves, they are for our family members, friends and neighbors. If you have symptoms, stay home. If someone close to you or in your care is sick, stay home.

We also understand that social distancing is a privilege and not everyone is equipped to make it through prolonged voluntary self-isolation or quarantine. Whether it is inside the masjid doors or across the city, Masjid al-Rabia is committed to being of service to our community however we can in our limited power. If you are in the city and need help, if you cannot travel but need food or supplies, you can contact us via: Text at (773)482-1308, or E-mail at info@masjidalrabia.org

Understanding that our home location acts as a community hub in service to some of the most vulnerable populations in the city, our doors in downtown Chicago will remain open to those who need us. We are coordinating with other community leaders here at Grace Place to best be of service to the homeless community and other Chicagoans who have been able to rely on Grace over the years. As this situation changes, we will keep updating our best practices and procedures every day to ensure our commitment to an Islamic community that is accessible for all, where no one is left behind.

Asalaamu alaikum,

Mahdia Lynn
Director, Masjid al-Rabia