

Islamic Shura Council
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



2021
RAMADAN
MANUAL

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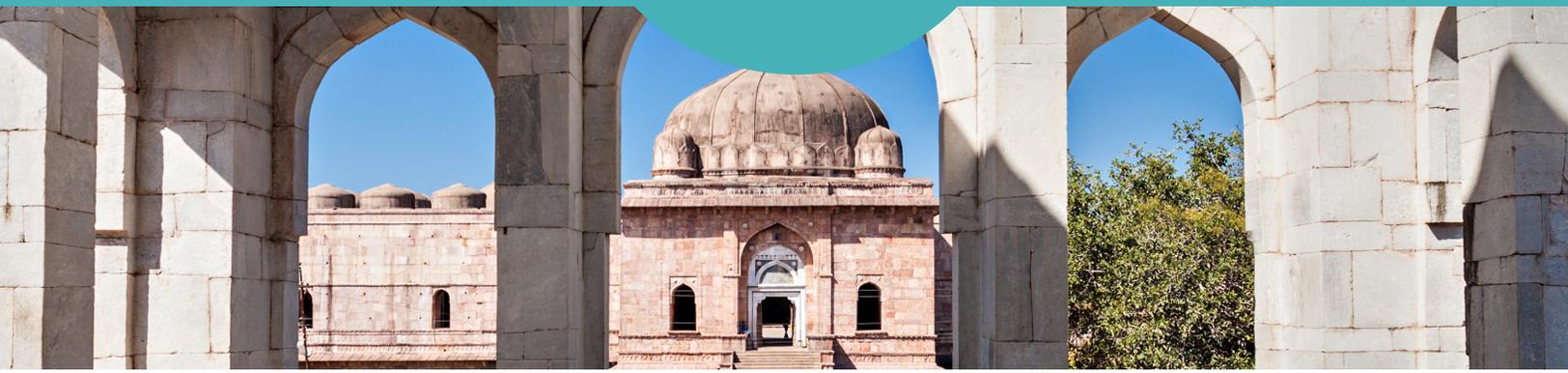
The Islamic Shura Council of Southern California along with the Muslim community looks forward to the blessed month of Ramadan 1442 AH/2021 CE. We pray that Allah allows us to reach Ramadan, and endows us with a chance to avail of its mercy. As we approach this blessed month, we thank Allah for allowing us to reopen our Masajid and feel that greater sense of community when we worship together in person.

In preparation for this special month, the following information is meant as a general guide for reference and educational purposes only. The content is not meant to be complete or authoritative from legal or medical points of view. Your local Islamic center can provide specific advice based on county health directives and instructions in consultation with religious and institutional leadership. Personalized health recommendations should be obtained from trained licensed professionals. The information that follows serves as general guidelines.

The various references below are ideal to be used and acted on together while asking experts in the field and adopting the most cautious counsel when unsure. It's understandable that each organization will make decisions ultimately based on their capabilities and in the best interest of their communities. Opening for Ramadan this year is best done safely and surely, according to professional national and local recommendations.

Full responsibility is assumed by readers in using the information put forth. Ultimate liability rests with each individual and organization. We urge each respective institution to do their due diligence in ensuring planning, implementation, and follow-up is done for all policies, protocols, and programs. All links are not exhaustive and applicable updated information should be sought for each jurisdiction and service area. Local information on counties is found on the [state listing](#).

Prior to (re)opening for Ramadan, mosques and Islamic organizations should follow [state-provided guidance](#). At the time of this summary, this step-by-step system for ensuring a safe and clean environment for visitors/congregants, staff, and volunteers was last updated on July 29, 2020, and is in the process of being updated. [A checklist for places for worship](#) (updated on July 1 at time of access) should be followed, posted, and abided by as a step system before (re)opening for in-person Ramadan programming.



The Shura Council Health Task Force met on March 3, 2021, and offered some general insight into how to cautiously carry out Ramadan activities.

The physicians from respective practice settings throughout Southern California expressed the blessing of being able to circumstantially gather in the Mosque this Ramadan while collectively recommending the following, based on current consensus guidelines for gatherings from the CDC:

1. Limiting indoor activities to minimal time windows when possible, to those who have been vaccinated.
2. Arranging outdoor activities for those who are not completely (2 weeks after all doses in course) or not yet vaccinated.
3. Planning virtual program options throughout the month
4. Posting signage and reiterating announcements for (not limited to):
 - a. The three W's when on-site (Washing/disinfecting hands, watching distance to keep 6 feet, wearing masks)
 - b. Performing Wudu at home, bringing your own prayer mats, and restricting restroom use on-site to sites/times as necessary
 - c. Lessening the duration of in-person programs by encouraging a component of time for collective virtual or home family activities
 - d. Not lingering after services/socializing and only attending for the purpose of participating in planned activities
5. Keeping food distribution to take home meals delivered in pre-made boxes that are handed out in a drive-through format
6. Regularly cleaning and disinfecting all high-touch surfaces such as door handles, carpets, bathroom fixtures, etc.
7. Having a registry of attendees and have anyone who visits sign waivers or release forms for acknowledging their self-checks for symptoms and risks for attending
8. Keeping obvious signs in place to inform people to stay home if sick, have a plan in place to contain and inform of any potential outbreaks
9. Devising and maintaining and written, reproducible policies, plans and protocols for ensuring safety of the congregation



The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [considerations for communities of faith](#) should be reviewed for compliance (see graphical summary that follows). The CDC [guidance for organizing events and gatherings](#) where people of different households come together should be carefully gone through. Their FAQs for [planning, preparing](#), and follow-up to events is also a helpful place to start.

The recently available [CDC guidance for vaccinated people](#) allows certain indoor gatherings only in private spaces. The Masjid, since it combines people of multiple households is defined as a “public space” and under rules of “gathering”, subject to the recommendations above. Health sector advice can change and should be reviewed continually and applied with careful consideration. Some safe Ramadan practices particularly to [Ramadan from the World Health Organization](#) are here (Interim from 2020, still applicable).

Acknowledging the complexities of these evidence-based recommendations, we are confident that each Islamic center and organization will take the appropriate steps based its resources and within their administrative and Islamic leadership (Imam, Board, staff) to make the safest and most productive environment for their staff, volunteers and visitors. We ask for Divine assistance as we plan for this blessed month and ask that we are aided by Allah’s mercy to make the best decisions for us all, Ameen. Please feel free to reach out to us at info@shuracouncil.org for any questions or assistance.

