

Re-opening Plan

Lehigh Valley Masjid Leadership and Physician Panel

The Islamic Centers of Lehigh Valley (Al-Maqasid, EPMA, IECPA, MALV, Respect Graduate School) have collaborated during this unprecedented time to ensure we make the best decisions possible for our Lehigh Valley community.

A Physician Panel was formed to provide expert protocols and consisted of:

1. Mohamed Turki, MD FCCP (Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at St Luke's University Hospital)
2. Danish Saeed, MD (Lehigh Family and Geriatrics Associate)
3. Uzma Mariam, MD (Family Medicine - St Luke's Health Center at Palmer-Forks)
4. Yasir Abunamous, MD (Lehigh Valley Family Medicine–Macungie).

Guidelines and protocols listed below were an outcome of this panel and have been accepted unanimously across the LV masjid.

Reopening the masjid

The LV Masjid will re-open to the Public once PA Governor Tom Wolf changes the designation of Lehigh and Northampton Counties from Red to Yellow (Green) Phase. This is expected around June 5th, 2020, however based on the prevalent conditions, the date may change.

As a part of the opening process, the following rules, policies, and guidelines will apply. Attendees who fail to abide by these rules and policies will not be permitted inside.

Following Services will be re-started under these rules and guidelines:

Daily Congregation Salah

Yellow Phase: Daily prayers will be open to a max of 25 people.

Green Phase: Up to 50% capacity of musallah will be allowed.

Doors will open few min before each salah and close immediately after the salah.

Verify iqamah timings on the masjid's website.

To allow everyone an opportunity, a registration process may be implemented.

Jum'mah (Friday) Services

Yellow Phase: Will remain closed.

Green Phase: Open to public but at 50% capacity of musallah.

Funeral Services

All Non-COVID-19 related deaths are eligible for washing (ghusl) and janazah services at MALV. COVID-19 related deaths have special requirements for processing; please contact secretary@malv.org for details.

Nikah

Limited Nikah services will be performed at MALV and IECPA; please contact secretary@malv.org or rd@iecpa.org, respectively, for details.

Virtual Programs

All other onsite programs remain suspended until further notice. Please follow the virtual online sessions.



[Al-Maqasid](#) [IECPA](#) [MALV](#)



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Mandatory Rules for All Attendees (not following any of these rules will prevent you from attending a service/prayer):

1. Any congregant/attendee that is sick should abstain from public spaces.
2. Maximum number of congregants/attendees at any time will vary based on the phase. During Yellow Phase, no more than 25 persons and during Green Phase no more than 50% capacity of the prayer hall will be allowed. Members may be required to register before attending an event or service. If implemented, the registration process will be communicated in coming days.
3. All congregants/attendees MUST wear face masks/coverings and ensure that nose and mouth are completely covered by the mask.
4. A distance of at least 6 ft is always required to be maintained amongst all individuals (inside and outside the building).
5. Each congregant/attendee will bring their own prayer rug for prayer services and use the designated spots.
6. Each congregant/attendee will dispose of the temporary sheet they placed their prayer rug on.
7. Leaving musallah starts from back row (one row at a time to avoid crowding).
8. Each congregant/attendee will limit their time within the premises to a minimum. The attendee must vacate the premises after the prayer is over.
9. Each congregant/attendee should avoid touching any surfaces, including handrails, doorknobs, and walls.
10. Each congregant/attendee is prohibited from holding or shaking hands of anyone other than the members of their own household.
11. Perform Wudu at home and limit use of restrooms.
12. Children under the age of 10 are not allowed at this time (this guidance will be subject to change based on conditions).

Guidelines for All Attendees

1. Community members over the age of 65 are strongly discouraged from attending the services at the masjid.
2. Individuals with multiple chronic medical problems (For example: asthma, heart condition, diabetes, blood pressure and other illness affecting lung, heart, and kidney) and those on immune suppression medications, including steroids, are requested not to attend any services or events at masjid.