

RAMADAN GUIDELINES IN TIMES OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The general guidelines will apply until 3 May and may be extended:

- Stay at home, especially if you're sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Keep at least 1.5 meters distance when you're outside.

See www.info-coronavirus.be.

General guidelines for worship, ceremonies and celebrations:

- All collective prayers, celebrations and gatherings are forbidden until 3 May, and possibly longer.
- There are no religious services. No gatherings are allowed. Only funerals and cremations can go ahead, with a limited number of people attending.
- Prayer houses and religious houses can remain open to individual visitors. Respect the hygiene measures. Keep a minimum distance of 1.5 meters between people.

See www.info-coronavirus.be/nl/faq/.

Guidelines at the start of Ramadan on 23/24 April:

- There will be no daily prayers or Friday service in the houses of prayer for the entire duration of Ramadan.
- There will be no Taraweeh prayers for the entire duration of Ramadan. You can perform the Taraweeh prayers at home: individually or with the people you live with.
- Various mosques are organising online lectures via social media. So you can follow them from home.
 - For more information: follow the Facebook pages of the Executive of the Muslims of Belgium (EMB), the Platform of Flemish imams or your local mosque.
 - Live streaming from prayer rooms is only permitted under strict conditions: lokaalbestuur.vlaanderen.be/nieuws/covid-19-erediensten-begrafenissen-huwelijken-en-livestreaming-vanuit-gebedsruimten-update-6-april

- Iftars can only be celebrated with the people you live with. You cannot invite family, friends or neighbours to attend.
- The iftars for the underprivileged in mosques are cancelled. The mosques can prepare meals to be delivered or collected. When doing so, you must respect all corona-related measures.
- Avoid meetings at bakers, butchers and supermarkets. Do not wait until the end of the day to do your shopping or order online.
- When you go to the store, respect the guidelines:
 - Only a limited number of people are allowed to enter the store at the same time.
 - Shopping is limited to 30 minutes.
 - Keep 1.5 meters distance.
 - Pay electronically or contactless.

Questions?

If you have theological questions, you can contact:

- De moslimexecutieve (the Muslim Executive): via the Islam information hotline 0800 200 98 or infolijn.islam@embnet.be.
- Platform Vlaamse imams en moslimdeskundigen (Platform of Flemish imams and Muslim experts): 0470 762593 or pvim.gent@gmail.com.
- Netwerk islamexperten (Network of Islam experts): info@netwerkislamexperten.be.
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Watch the live streaming sessions again by Khalid Benhaddou, imam and coordinator of the education network Islamic experts, about the measures and how to practice Islam in times of coronavirus netwerkislamexperten.be/live/.

