



JAMIATUL ULAMA

KwaZulu-Natal – South Africa

COUNCIL OF MUSLIM THEOLOGIANS

EDUCATING * ENLIGHTENING * SERVING

Tel: +27 31 207 7099 Email: info@jamiat.org.za Web: www.jamiat.org.za

223 Alpine Road, Durban, 4091, KZN P.O. Box: 19551, Dormerton, 4015

NPO no.: 077-820 PBO File no.: 18/11/13/2215

09 Jumad al Ula 1442

24 December 2020

Bi Ismihi Ta'ala

Jamiatul Ulama KZN Statement on the Covid-19 Second Wave

The Ummah and the world at large are sailing through uncharted waters. The challenge of Covid-19 and the Global Lockdown that we labour under, is unprecedented in human history. It is, therefore, unsurprising that the response to the situation will be varied and diverse. This is evident in the multiple legislations adopted by different countries, the divergent views of medical professionals on how best to contain the virus and treat those affected, as well by the varied religious guidance offered by ministers of all faiths.

We are well aware that Islam holds much tolerance for differing views when such views are substantiated by credible evidence; the existence of the four Mazhabs being ample proof for this. Bearing this in mind, it is simplistic and perhaps overzealous to hold that one particular religious response to the matter is correct to the exclusion of all others.

The Jamiatul Ulama KZN has held and continues to hold the position that the Muslim community should abide by the governmental restrictions placed on us without any choice and within the framework of such restrictions, maximum use should be made of the allowances available to fulfil our Islamic duties as per the Shariah. Hence, from the inception of the lockdown, various posters, infographics and emails were sent out by the Jamiatul Ulama KZN advising the Muslim community on how our congregational worship should be managed.

It is also true that several organisations and associations have called for restrictive measures, over and above governmental regulations, in what they believed to be the correct response to the virus. These included, further limiting the number of people allowed in the Masjid, restriction of ablution facilities and even the complete closure of the Masjid.



JAMIATUL ULAMA

KwaZulu-Natal – South Africa

COUNCIL OF MUSLIM THEOLOGIANS

EDUCATING * ENLIGHTENING * SERVING

Tel: +27 31 207 7099 Email: info@jamiat.org.za Web: www.jamiat.org.za

223 Alpine Road, Durban, 4091, KZN P.O. Box: 19551, Dormerton, 4015

NPO no.: 077-820 PBO File no.: 18/11/13/2215

Due to the different positions adopted, the Jamiat has largely chosen to remain independent when issuing statements with regards to the Covid-19 response.

It is also sensible to be aware of the impending vaccine rollout. It has yet to be ascertained the type/s of vaccines that the public will be pressured to accept. In 2017, an “outbreak” of measles was declared in KZN after 23 cases of measles were confirmed. Subsequently, the government engaged in a measles vaccination program with a vaccine that contained pork gelatine. While the Jamiatul Ulama KZN strongly opposed this vaccine, a number of Islamic organisations and associations approved its use for the Muslim public.

The Jamiatul Ulama KZN has, therefore, chosen not to bind itself to the recommendations of any organisation or association without full knowledge of what those recommendations are.

In conclusion, the Jamiatul Ulama KZN continues to advise the Muslim public to adopt the necessary precautions in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus, and, most importantly, to engage ourselves in such deeds that will attract the mercy of Allah Ta’ala. Seeking forgiveness abundantly, avoidance of sins and reforming our lives are key to this. Maintaining civility and avoiding discord and condemnation when there is legitimate difference preserves the strength of the Ummah and draws the Divine Aid of Allah Ta’ala.

May Allah Ta’ala grant cure to the sick, forgiveness to our deceased and solace to the bereaved. May He protect us from all illnesses and bless us with good health and prosperity, Aameen.

Executive Committee

Jamiatul Ulama KZN