



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

For Immediate Release:
April 23, 2020

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Alameda County Public Health Department

Alameda County Public Health Reminds Residents to Safely Observe Ramadan at Home during Shelter in Place Order

ALAMEDA COUNTY – Alameda County Public Health reminds the public that the Shelter-in-Place Order prohibits gatherings and directs individuals to stay home, except for essential activities. The Order remains in effect through May 3rd and may be modified as needed.

As our Muslim communities head into the month of Ramadan, please help to limit the spread of COVID-19 by continuing to shelter in place and wear a face covering when leaving home for essential activities. Limiting interactions among individuals who do not live in the same household helps prevent people from unknowingly passing the infection onto others.

Please be reminded that mosques must remain closed to prayer and all community gatherings are prohibited. Sheltering in place also means avoiding leaving your home to distribute food to charity or visiting family or friends who do not live in the same household.

Our communities are advised to pray from home and not congregate for traditions such as breaking of the fast (iftar) or prayers in the evening at the Mosque (Tarawih), and to refrain from spending the last ten days at the Mosque for worship (Itikaf). While we do not yet know what the shelter in place guidelines will be in late May, it is likely that you will need to refrain from attending communal Eid celebrations at the end of Ramadan.

These guidelines have been created in consultation with the Northern California Islamic Council leadership. It is important to emphasize that suspension of in-person gatherings is not a suspension of worship. We advise you to seek guidance from your spiritual leaders during this important month of fasting and charity obligations. Many mosques are offering virtual services through the internet.

“As Muslims prepare to welcome the month of Ramadan, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a major concern for the community, and observing religious obligations should always be balanced with safety and well-being of everyone in the society”, said Dr. Hatem Bazian, Chair, Northern California Islamic Council.

For resources on how to celebrate your faith virtually from the safety of your home, visit <http://www.acphd.org/media/570945/covid-19-ramadan-holiday-2020.04.23.pdf>.

“During these challenging times, staying socially connected while maintaining physical distancing is an important part of maintaining mental and spiritual health,” said Dr. Erica Pan, Interim Health Officer,

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Alameda County Public Health Department. “There is evidence that our efforts are flattening the curve and we thank our residents for their commitment to this critical strategy to keep residents safe and healthy. Ramadan mubarak and we wish you all safe celebrations.”

Staying at home, washing hands frequently, covering your face when you do need to leave home for essential activities, and maintaining 6-foot distance between you and others are still the best ways to curb the spread of this novel coronavirus.

For more information on COVID-19, visit <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>. Visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org/index.page> for Frequently Asked Question about the Shelter-in-Place Order.

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