

# COVID-19 Volunteer Safety Protocol

## OVERVIEW

Volunteerism is a core principal of the Ismaili Muslim Community. Given the global COVID-19 Pandemic and this time of heightened sensitivity, it is ever more critical to come together as a community and support one another. This protocol has been developed to best ensure the health, safety, and protection of the volunteers and all those whom they serve.

## HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Most people impacted by the COVID-19 virus are asymptomatic (do not show any symptoms until much later) and local health authorities have noted that the COVID-19 virus can spread easily, taking precautions is critical to ensuring the Jamat, and particularly the elderly and those most at risk, are most protected. The following are health and safety considerations volunteers should follow when assisting with in-person support of Jamati members (ex: food delivery, supply delivery, etc.)

- Phone contact instead of in-person meeting should be the preferred method of communication whenever possible.
- Whenever possible volunteers should not themselves be driving Jamati members to any location including, but not limited to, a doctor's office, Emergency Room, COVID-19 Testing Facility or any other location. In the event of a request and critical need, the volunteer should contact the Local Board Chair before making any contact with the Jamati Member.
  - ⇒ For Jamati transportation needs, a car service or ride-share service should be arranged for the Jamati member needing transportation. Jamati member should also be advised to take appropriate precautions such as wearing a mask, using disinfectants, and practicing 'social distancing'.
- Volunteers who have any allergy, cold, or flu symptoms (like fever, body aches, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath) should remain home.
- Practice 'social distancing' while assisting others – maintain a distance of at least 6 feet of space from others when possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Before and after any in-person support of a Jamati members volunteers should wash hands (with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds) or, when hand washing may not be possible, use hand sanitizer (such as Purell) that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- When visiting stores to pick up items for a Jamati member consider going at less busy times. Be extra careful and take additional sanitizing precautions such as wiping down carts & baskets (when available), use self-checkouts, and avoid close contact with other individuals.
- Contactless delivery should be the method of delivery when dropping off supplies, medications, groceries, etc. to Jamati members' homes, and, to the extent possible, avoid entering the Jamati member's homes or vehicles. In-person interaction should be avoided, and items should be left at the door ideally or other pre-agreed location. Volunteers can notify the Jamati member from a safe distance through a phone call or message that supplies have been delivered. Additionally, as these items are coming from public spaces, remind the Jamati member that it is advisable to dispose of the bags quickly and wash their hands afterward.
- When possible, disinfect and/or avoid using hands to touch frequently touched surfaces (for example, doors, doorbells, doorknobs, elevator buttons, etc.).