

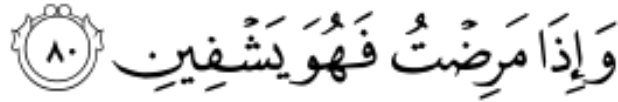
## Template Friday Sermon (Khutbah):

### Potential Second Wave and Protecting Our Families

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا ، من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل فلا هادي له وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن محمدا عبده ورسوله  
يا أيها الذين ءامنوا اتقوا الله حق تقاته، ولا تموتن إلا وأنتم مسلمون.

Salamun-alaikum, Peace be with you,

The Qur'an tells us:



“And when I am ill, it is He (Allah) who cures me.” Qur'an 26:80

#### INTRODUCTION

- My dear brothers and sisters. As you know, the **world is going through the COVID-19 pandemic** and there is no person, no country, no field of human activity, that has not been impacted by this.
- It has caused some people to lose their freedom due to lockdown rules, lose their livelihoods due to the economic impacts, **caused over 40,000 deaths in Britain**, and nearly 1 million deaths globally.
- Many of our own Muslim communities have lost loved **mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters**, and to you I offer sincerest condolences.
- Now in recent days, evidence is showing there is a **real risk of a second wave** which may hit us harder than the first. How should we approach this?

#### 1. LEARN LESSONS FROM FIRST WAVE

- The Prophet (peace be upon him) is narrated to have said, “**A believer should not be stung twice from the same hole.**” [Bukhari]
- The first wave, we did not know what to expect so we cannot be blamed. We had to use our best guess to work out what to do.
- But the second wave, **we now have experience**. To not learn lessons from the first wave would be heedlessness and rejecting the mercy of Allah upon us for having survived the first wave.
- For example:
  - We have learnt that **wearing face masks or coverings** reduce the risk of virus transmissions significantly
  - We have also evidence that keeping **2m social distancing can reduce transmission of the virus by up to 10 times**
  - And we know that **large indoor gatherings in non-COVID-19 secure venues** like houses, could spread the virus like wildfire
- But today, we still see too many people across society of all backgrounds and ages, are taking chances or making excuses to ignore the lessons that we learnt from the first wave.
- As Muslims, we should be at the forefront of **adhering to what was learnt from the first wave** because it is a sign of our *Iman* (faith) that we do not disregard the signs of Allah.

## 2. PROTECT THE LIVES OF OTHERS

- Allah (swt) tells us in the Holy Qur'an, "**and whoever saves one (life) - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely.**" (Qur'an, 5:32)
- At the beginning of the lockdown, in Britain our slogan was "**Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives.**" The part about saving lives is still as true today, as it was in March.
- In fact, as Muslims in Britain, **the statistics show we have been disproportionately affected by this virus.** In our communities, we are more likely to live in multi-generational households, or work in higher-risk occupations such as nurses and doctors, or taxi drivers and shop-keepers. These are all risk factors that makes **our local communities and our families more at risk.**
- Thus, it is even more important that **we take every practical action** so that we can to preserve life.
- There are those who may argue about why we should have to wear masks or why are we being prevented from having large weddings or gatherings – but remember that these sacrifices we are making with great patience, are contributing towards saving lives and reducing deaths.
- On 14 September, the rules were tightened again and a "**Rule of 6**" was introduced, limiting our **social gatherings to 6 people or less.**
- The scientists and public health authorities would clearly not be recommending such strong measures, if the risk of a second wave was not serious. It is important that we listen and take heed of the seriousness.
- So, let us continue to be safe, wash our hands regularly, wear face coverings/masks where it is mandatory, abide by the guidelines and socially distance from those not in our household - **not only to protect ourselves, but also our families and wider local community.**
- And ultimately, as Muslims, we should try our utmost in such worldly affairs, but always have *tawakkul* (trust) that our affairs are ultimately in the hands of our Creator and Sustainer. As Allah (swt) tells us in the Qur'an, "**And when I am ill, it is He (Allah) who cures me.**" Qur'an 26:80

## 3. SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

- One of the positive lessons from this pandemic is how **many communities came together** to identify and support the most vulnerable in society
- At the height of lockdown, many people rushed to volunteer for foodbanks, do shopping runs for elderly neighbors, organised rotas to phone vulnerable family members or friends and much more.
- Despite the physical restrictions, we found new ways to help each other and implement principles from hadiths of the Prophet (peace be upon him) such as: "**He is not a believer who eats his fill whilst his neighbour beside him goes hungry**" [Bukhari]
- Today - the lockdown may not be as severe - but **the needs of our neighbours and the most vulnerable in society are still many**, especially if a second wave hits us again.
- For example, can you take action by:
  - Phoning a relative or friend who has had a bereavement recently, and be a friendly and listening ear to them?
  - Volunteering to help in the masjid or madrasa, whether in person or online?
  - Register to donate blood? Or if you've had the COVID-19 virus and recovered, take part in the pilot plasma donation drive where NHS are seeking donors from South Asian backgrounds?
  - If you are in employment, offering work experience to a young person struggling to find a job, or help them with their CV and job application?
  - And there are so many more ways we can all help, however small it may be.
- Let us be thankful for each and every blessing that we have and ask Allah (swt) to **empower us to support those who are more in need than we are** in the coming days and weeks ahead.

End.