

National Muslim Task Force on Covid-19 Framework

Background

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the Islamic Society of North America, American Muslim Health Professionals, Islamic Medical Association of North American, and the Fiqh Council of North America formed a **National Muslim Task Force on COVID-19 on March 18, 2020**. The Task Force, representing over 40 organizations, is comprised of policy experts, civic and religious leaders, public health and medical professionals.

The Task Force intends to serve as a trustworthy resource for healthcare providers, religious communities and their congregants by providing guidance, evidence based recommendations and policy solutions. Since its formation, the Task Force released two critical statements (most recent statement can be found [here](#)) for the Muslim community to guide them through this uncertain time. In the coming weeks, we hope to increase collaboration across other healthcare and public health organizations to effectively and proactively respond to this public health crisis and mitigate its impacts.

Steering Committee

- Islamic Society of North America - ISNA
- American Muslim Health Professionals - AMHP
- Fiqh Council on North America (FCNA)
- Islamic Medical Medical Association of North America - IMANA

Objectives

1. To increase collaboration within the Muslim community to effectively and proactively respond to the novel Coronavirus pandemic.
2. To address the needs of the Muslim community during this crisis from a faith and health perspective.
3. To represent the task force and the Muslim community through outreach with government and state agencies during this crisis.

Basic Framework

- Education & Outreach
- Advocacy/Policy
- Service/Charity

Key Resources

- [Taskforce Member Survey](#)
- [Taskforce Member & Committees Directory](#)

Criteria to Join Taskforce

With nearly 40 organizations coming together on this task force and more organizations sharing their interest in wanting to join, the Steering Committee is recommending the following structure to be as fair and as inclusive as we can and give all organizations equal opportunity to participate:

1. Leaders of nonprofits with a national impact can join the task force.
2. They must have the authority to speak, approve and sign calls to actions, statements of recommendations, etc on behalf of the organizations. Due to the fluidity of COVID-19 situation constantly evolving, we will have to respond quickly.
3. In order to effectively manage the task force, we request no more than two representatives per organization to join the task force.
4. Participants must have the capacity and commit to joining one of the five committees.

Process to Join Taskforce

1. New organizations interested in joining the task force or committees can email covid@amhp.us.
2. Steering committee will vet the request and once approved, will follow up on next steps listed below:
 - a. Share [Taskforce Member Survey](#) where they can indicate committee they wish to join
 - b. Add to googlegroup & WhatsApp group
 - c. Share calendar invite for weekly meetings
 - d. Connect them to Committee Chair
 - e. Be added to committee email & whatsapp distribution list and sent calendar invite for meetings by Committee Chair

Committees

1. **Policy Committee:** includes government relations, public policy, and advocacy professionals
2. **Faith/Fiqh Committee:** includes faith, fiqh leaders, scholars and Imams
3. **Health Professionals Committee:** includes physicians, researchers, and public health professionals
4. **Mental Health Professionals Committee:** includes psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and therapists.
5. **Social Services Committee:** includes representatives working on issues of domestic violence, homelessness, unemployment, childcare, food pantry, elderly care, financial assistance, etc.

Ground Rules to Achieve Task Force Collective Objectives:

1. A googlegroup and a whatsapp group will be set up for each committee.
2. Committees are responsible for designating a Committee Chair who will serve as the Project Manager of the Committee. Committee chairs are responsible for scheduling their meetings and managing their priorities, their communications, and call schedules.

3. Each committee can set their committee calls via google hangouts (can be conducted with 5 or fewer individuals). If more than five individuals are part of a committee, please use your organization's conference lines if possible.
4. Each committee should come up with objectives and goals and identify a framework for achieving them. Prioritize needs based on the rapidly changing situation. This includes forming partnerships, sharing resources, research, etc and recommendations.
5. Committees will meet on their own and separately from the task force on an ongoing basis to discuss, evaluate, and agree upon recommendations that will be suggested to the larger Task Force. This way each committee member will have an opportunity to weigh in and debate, discuss and agree upon their final recommendations.
6. Committee Chair/Project Manager will have **5 minutes** during the weekly Task Force meetings to represent the committee and recommendations to the larger Task Force.

It's important we establish accountability for each committee and provide everyone the opportunity to exercise their agency and work together as teams. Committees are responsible for setting up processes and managing their shared goals and documents (using shared google docs, folders, etc.)

Communication Methods

- Whatsapp Taskforce Group and Committee groups
- Google group: All task force members are on a master google group plus committee google groups
- Weekly Calls on Tuesday from 7-8pm EST
- Website Resource Portal: <http://www.imana.org/covid-19>

WhatsApp Rules

- Always keep to the purpose of the group and don't spam or share irrelevant messages about other topics.
- Check your sources before you share them.
- Never berate anyone or air grievances. If you have an issue, address it one on one with the relevant person or contact one of the admins.
- Do not post fundraising campaigns for your respective organizations or other organizations. Only campaigns which are being done collectively by a Taskforce Committee can be posted/shared with the group.

WhatsApp Rules

American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)
The Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA)

Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA)
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
The Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA)
American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
CelebrateMercy
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Darul Qasim
Emgage
The Family & Youth Institute
Imamia Medics International
Initiative on Islam and Medicine (II&M), University of Chicago
Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA)
Ma'rifa Conference
Mercy Without Limits
Mosque Cares (Ministry of W. Deen Mohammad)
Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA)
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
Muslim Caucus Education Collective (MCEC)
Muslim Mental Health Lab, Stanford University
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
Muslim Wellness Foundation (MWF)
National Arab American Medical Association (NAAMA)
North American Imams Federation (NAIF)
Penny Appeal USA (PA USA)
SWISS
Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
United Mission for Relief & Development (UMR)
Universal Muslim Association of America (UMAA)
Zaman International