

# GUNGAHLIN MASJID

## COVID SAFETY PLAN JUNE 2020

### Purpose of the Plan

COVID Safety Plan (the Plan) outlines our preparation for, management and monitoring of risks posed by COVID-19 to the users of the Gungahlin Masjid. The Plan identifies these risks, our approach to prepare for the risks, ongoing management and monitoring of the risks. The Plan provides a detail mitigation strategy to ensure Gungahlin Masjid users and broader community are COVID safe.

### Date of effect

This Plan is effective from Friday 19 June 2020.

### Plan review mechanisms

COVID Safety Plan should be revisited and updated following further updates to public health advice, and any changes to the Public Health Directions.

### Document consultation

COVID Safety Plan has been developed in consultation with:

- Executive Committee of Canberra Muslim Community (CMC) Inc.
- Religious leaders of the Gungahlin Masjid
- Several volunteers of Gungahlin Masjid, and
- Several regular worshipers at Gungahlin Masjid

Keep up to date on restrictions through the ACT COVID19 website:  
[www.covid19.act.gov.au](http://www.covid19.act.gov.au)

The Safe Work Australia website:  
[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/)

For further information on work health and safety in the ACT:  
[www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/5015](http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/5015)

**RESTRICTIONS MAY  
HAVE EASED BUT YOUR  
RESPONSIBILITY HASN'T**



Maintain good  
hand hygiene



Stay 1.5m  
apart



Stay home if  
you are unwell



Get tested if you have  
symptoms of COVID-19

## Density and Physical Distancing

Gungahlin Masjid implements physical distancing as outlined in the Public Health Directions.

While there is a 100 person cap, the total number of persons cannot exceed 1 person per 4 square metres within each space.

Regarding spaces at the Gungahlin Masjid, the upper and lower floors are part of the same enclosed space. However, the floor coverage for each can be used to maximise the number of persons attending the Masjid. For example, our upper floor space is 236 metres square (21.5m x 11m), and the lower floor is 255 metres square (17m x 15m), the maximum number of attendees for our indoor space would be 100 due to the 100-person limit; although technically our total indoor space can accommodate a total of 122 (59 + 63) persons spread over both floors.

Outdoor space would be considered a separate space. Therefore persons on the verandah would not be included in the maximum number of persons in your indoor space. However, if 100 persons are permitted indoors, then the additional persons outdoors would not be permitted to mingle with the persons indoors, as they would then become part of the same gathering.

In terms of 1.5m physical distancing guidelines, Gungahlin Masjid is electing not to follow the 1.5m physical distancing guidance during obligatory prayers ONLY to maintain Islamic ruling. Detail risk mitigation strategy has been developed and can be found at the end of this document.

## Cleaning, Sanitising and Hygiene Activities

The CMC Executive Committee (EC) has agreed to ensure appropriate cleaning and sanitising practices and supplies in place to minimise the risk to COVID-19 transmission at the Gungahlin Masjid. Several cleaning, sanitising and hygiene activities have been agreed, including:

- Respiratory and hand hygiene awareness
- Hand sanitisers at each entrance point
- Regular environmental cleaning and decontamination protocol
- Additional hygiene supplies on order to supplement existing stock
- Masjid cleaners managing cleaning requirements and extensive cleaning arrangement including high touch point cleaning.

## Signage

The EC has agreed to display signage around and within the premises to increase awareness and communicate and promoting hygiene measures, physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene. These signage/posters cannot be removed without approval from the EC and all Masjid users must comply with the instructions provided on these signage/posters.

## Managing person presenting with illness

Any worshiper, visitor, contractor or member of the community attend the Gungahlin Masjid with clear symptoms of illness; will be requested to leave the premises. The CMC EC is urging everyone to stay home if they are unwell. A message is placed on the Gungahlin Masjid website to instruct people not to enter the premises if they are unwell.



## Access Control

Following measures are in place to minimise physical contact:

- Manage ingress and egress. Separate entry and exit strategy to avoid traffic congestions and volunteers at the entry door remind worshipers not to enter the Masjid if unwell
- An online registration system where attendees can voluntarily enter their details before presenting to the Masjid. The CMC EC expects to implement such online system gradually.
- People with health conditions and health vulnerabilities are advised to pray at home.

## Additional Measures

In addition to the above, the CMC EC is advising all Gungahlin Masjid users to observe below measures while being present in the Masjid:

- Follow latest information and instructions. COVID-19 information is available on Gungahlin Masjid website providing latest instructions, information on COVID-19 and restrictions at the Masjid. Regular information circulars and emails to all members and Masjid users to promote awareness.
- Worshipers are advised to bring their own prayer mat.
- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing while in the Masjid except during the obligatory prayer and avoid social interactions.
- Leave the Masjid as soon as obligatory prayer is complete.
- Masjid is open for short period and only during the obligatory prayer time and Quran classes.
- Remember that 'restrictions may have eased but our responsibility hasn't.



# Risk Assessment and Management Plan

## Risk Environment

- Since the COVID-19 Pandemic declared by the World Health Organisation, Gungahlin Masjid is strictly maintaining and observing all the restrictions imposed by the ACT Government to minimise the risk of person-to-person transmission of coronavirus. Masjid has taken several risk mitigation strategies to ensure the place is COVIDSafe and the community is risk free.
- As Canberra moves to further easing of restrictions, Gungahlin Masjid is electing to conduct organised obligatory prayer services under the supervision of the Executive Committee where worshipers will stand in a row closing the gap between them, however, will be maintaining social distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres and will not exceed maximum number of people allowed at one time.
- Purpose of this risk assessment is to understand the residual risk which will assist in approving exemption with a risk-based approach.

## What are the risks?

- Risk of a person infected with COVID-19 entering the Masjid; and
- Risk of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in the Masjid.

## What are our current controls?

- COVID-19 information on Masjid website providing latest instructions, information on COVID-19 and restrictions at the Masjid.
- Regular information circulars and emails to all members and Masjid users.
- Physical signage promoting hygiene measures and physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.
- Readily available hand sanitisers across Masjid premises.
- Access control – elderly and vulnerable worshipers are instructed to pray at home.
- Additional hygiene supplies on order to supplement existing stock.
- Masjid cleaners managing cleaning requirements and extensive cleaning arrangement including high touch point cleaning.
- Worshipers are advised to bring their own prayer mat.
- Signage in all communal spaces, including kitchenettes, reminding people to maintain hand hygiene and practice respiratory hygiene.
- Separate entry and exit strategy to avoid traffic congestions and volunteer at the entry door remind worshipers not to enter the Masjid if unwell.
- If a worshiper displaying any symptoms, they are requested to leave the Masjid immediately.
- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing while in the Masjid except during obligatory prayer and avoid social interactions.
- Constant reminder that ‘restrictions may have eased but our responsibility hasn’t’.

**Post-control risk rating: Low**

Likelihood: Rare

Consequences: Moderate\*

\*Based on advice issued by [Safe Work Australia](#), contraction of COVID-19 is likely to cause mild to moderate illness in a majority of cases.

