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Guidelines

Guidelines for Eid ul Adha for Prevention of Corona Virus

Objective

To provide health guidelines for mitigation of spread of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 to general public, the buyers/ sellers of animals and local managers regarding social distancing, preventive measures during slaughtering of animals and during Eid prayers on the occasion of Eid ul Adha.

Rationale

COVID-19 pandemic has struck the world due to rapid human-to-human transmission. Global evidence for animals, such as dogs and cats, getting infected with COVID-19 is not very strong whereas there is no evidence for infection among the livestock animals or in general for animals being involved in the transmission of the virus to humans. The animal market/mandees to be set up around the time of Eid must adhere to these guidelines for **social distancing and protective measures to be practiced for preventing the spread of infection** among the sellers and buyers and to ensure the safe Eid during the COVID 19 outbreak.

Eidgah is an open-air space outside a mosque, or other open grounds usually outside the city (or at the outskirts) where Eid prayers are performed as part of Islamic culture. In this COVID-19 era these spaces with crowded worshippers can accelerate spread of COVID19. So, these guidelines have been developed to propose measures to ensure continued and uninterrupted prayers for Muslims on Eid-ul-Adha.

Public should only undertake minimal necessary travel during these Eid Holidays as it is likely to fall in the peak period of Pandemic in Pakistan. Social visits at Eid and general family get togethers should be avoided. Eid Shopping should only be restricted to minimal essentials and crowding in markets is not advisable. The tradition of “Eid Embracing” is likely to increase transmission so it should be avoided for this Eid.

Social Distancing at Animal Markets/Mandees

Local Authority



- The local authorities should encourage the trend of online buying, e selling and slaughter arrangements of the animals as much as possible in their cities/towns
- The authorities should allocate large enough spaces away from general populated areas for Animal Markets/Mandees
- Local authority must get the markets set under their supervision while allocating the space to the animal vendors strictly following physical/social distancing principals
- Local authority must ensure that every individual visiting the market (buyer/seller) must wear face mask as per the Government's orders. Those without face masks would not be allowed within the market/ mandee
- Local authority must ensure the availability of thermal guns at entrance and allow customers only after checking temperature
- Local authority must designate an individual at the entrance and exit of the market with alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 70% alcohol) who must make sure each customer sanitizes his hand before entering and while leaving the market
- Do not allow the customer with cough and flu to enter the market
- To ensure the space does not get crowded, allow people to enter the market only in small groups at intervals
- Local authority must inspect the adherence to the guidelines by the sellers and buyers during the business hours
- Ensure the public display of notices promoting hand hygiene and social distancing
- A medical aid post/first aid post should be identified for medical advice if needed by the customers/sellers within close proximity of the Animal market/Mandee

Animal Vendors/ Sellers

- Every seller must wear the face mask as per the Government's order
- The seller should wash hands with soap and water frequently or use an alcohol-based (70%) hand sanitizer
- The seller should set up their stalls at a distance of at least 2 meters from each other while having adequate space for their own animals. The supporting arrangements must be made by the local authority
- Seller and customers should maintain the safe distance of 2 meters among each other
- Seller and customer must not shake hands or maintain any other physical contact
- The seller must keep a disinfection formulation with 0.5% diluted bleach or 60%-80% dilute alcohol solution to disinfect the most frequently used surfaces by the customers
- Each salesperson must ensure the use of gloves for touching the animals
- Any seller, if sick or have symptoms such as cough, fever etc., is not allowed to sell animals in the market. He must arrange a replacement for him otherwise he is not allowed to be present personally
- Each seller must ensure queue control and maintaining the advised 2 meters distance in his allocated space in the market/ mandee
- The sellers must keep themselves updated with the updated instructions issued by the government and show strict compliance to them

Customers/ Buyers

- The buyer must wear a surgical/medical mask as per the Government orders



- Do not go to the market/ mandee if you are suffering from fever, cough or flu
- Make sure to sanitize your hands before and after visiting the market/ mandee
- Do not touch animals without gloves
- Avoid touching the surfaces in the market/ mandee unnecessarily
- Maintain 2 meters distance from salesperson or other customer within the market/ mande
- Follow the safety guidance provided by the local management and cooperate with the staff
- If you observe no compliance to the guidelines by the individual seller, play your responsible role as a citizen and inform the local authorities

Social Distancing and Infection Prevention & Control during Slaughtering of Animals on Eid ul Adha

General prevention measures

The preventive measures that should be followed during slaughtering activity are:

- The site of slaughtering should be away from general public and living areas
- Crowding at slaughtering should be avoided, only necessary persons should be allowed to be present at the site
- Practice physical distancing. Maintain a minimum 2-meter distance
- Promote good respiratory hygiene. Cough or sneeze into bent elbows. If not, a disposable tissue should be used to cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, then thrown in a bin with a lid. Perform hand hygiene after disposal
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially when hands are not clean
- Use gloves and masks. PPE provides a barrier to protect the person from potential exposure to hazards
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 40-60 seconds. If soap and water are not available, rub your hands for 20-30 seconds with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60-80% alcohol

General Cleaning and Disinfecting Principles

Environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures should be followed consistently and correctly before and after the slaughtering of animals.

- Cleaning with detergent and water, followed by rinsing and drying, is the most useful method for removing germs from surfaces. Enveloped viruses, including the one causing COVID-19, are sensitive to detergents. Detergents help to loosen the germs so that they can be rinsed away with clean water
- Disinfecting or using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces, can further lower the risk of spreading infection. After applying a disinfectant, wait for the required exposure time to ensure it kills germs on the surface. Once the contact time has lapsed, the disinfectant may be rinsed with clean water
- Where possible, use disposable cloths/ towels and disposable mop heads. Alternatively, ensure used cloths and mop heads are laundered and dried after use to minimize contamination



General Preventive Measures at Eidgah/ Open grounds for Eid prayers

- Separate entrances and exits should be made in a one-way system to prevent bottlenecks
- Thermal Screening for all worshippers at entry points of eidgah
- Hand sanitizer at entrances/exits, making it mandatory for all people to use it before entering and after exiting
- Every person should wear face/surgical mask
- Mark out prayer spaces clearly using measuring instruments to make social distancing of 6 feet easy to follow
- Worshippers should bring their own Prayer mat / musalla
- Encourage people to perform wudhu at home
- People must maintain social distancing by keeping 2 meters distance between each other, and every other row should be left empty to allow for 2 meters spacing in all directions
- Discourage the sick & elderly and children under 15 years of age from attending prayers
- Discourage the socializing and embracing within the eidgah after prayers
- Allocate COVID-19 safety officer on both male and female side

Eid Prayers in Mosques

- Thermal Screening for all persons entering the mosques at the entry gates should be arranged
- Provision of hand sanitizer at gate of mosques
- Mosques must close no later than 10 minutes after the prayer ends.
- Imams should deliver the sermons on the topic of the virus and preventative measures that Government of Pakistan has taken in order to slow the spread to give individuals an active role in promoting the health and safety of the members of society
- Windows and doors of the mosques should be kept opened for good ventilation during the duration of the prayer
- No carpets or mats to be laid down in mosques because the virus is airborne
- Clean floors for prayers must be ensured by washing them with chlorinated water regularly
- Every person should wear face/surgical mask
- Worshippers should bring their own Prayer mat / musalla and not leave them behind after the prayer
- Encourage people to perform wudhu at home
- People must avoid handshake
- Worshipers must maintain social distancing by keeping two meters distance between each other, and every other row should be left empty
- Water coolers should not to be used
- Restrooms and ablution sections must be closed
- Avoid crowding when entering or exiting the mosques.
- Discourage the sick & elderly and children under 15 years of age from attending prayers
- Discourage the socializing within the mosques after prayers



Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international recommendations and best practices.

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References

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For more information, please contact:

HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH, PM National Health Complex, Islamabad

<http://covid.gov.pk/>

<http://nhsrc.gov.pk/>

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