

Shaykh Ṣāliḥ al-Fawzān on a Mosque Administration Preventing a Person with Influenza from Praying in the Mosque

Shaykh Ṣāliḥ al-Fawzān (حفظه الله) was asked:¹

هل يجوز لإدارة مسجد أن تمنع مصلي من الصلاة في المسجد لكونه مريضاً جداً بالإنفلونزا، تقول قد ينتشر مرضه ويؤذي المصلين.

Is it permissible for a mosque administration to prevent a worshipper from (performing) prayer in the mosque due to him being severely ill with influenza, saying that his illness may spread and harm the (other) worshippers?

The Shaykh answered:

أكثر المصلين يعطسون ولا صار فيه إلا العافية والحمد لله، يفرحون إذا صار بهم أي زكام صلوا في بيوتهم وقالوا نستريح من الروحة التي إلى المسجد، ما يصلح هذا، توكلوا على الله وصلوا، خلوه يصلي معكم ويا ستر الله سبحانه وتعالى والزكام هذا مرضٌ يعني مستوطن ما هو به، نعم.

Most worshippers sneeze, and they remain fine, and praise is due to Allāh, (yet) they rejoice when it happens to them, meaning (the illness) of cold, they pray in their homes and say, “Lets relax from the journey to the mosque.” This is not appropriate. They should place trust in Allāh and pray (in the

¹ From his lectures on Sharḥ al-‘Umdah, 12th lesson. For audio visit: <https://abuiyaad.com/d/fawzan-flu-prayer>.

mosque). Let him pray with you, Allāh (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) will protect.
This cold is an endemic disease.

NOTES

The Shaykh alludes to the fact that people use this illness as an excuse not to go to the mosque, that this is not befitting and appropriate, and that a person should in fact go to the mosque while placing reliance upon Allāh, and that the mosque administration should allow him to pray with them, despite their fear of contagion.

As for when a Muslim ruler imposes restrictions or regulations, in an epidemic, then a scholar will call for obedience to the ruler in what he sees fit from his *ijtihād*, from the angle of the Sunnah, which is obedience to the ruler in what is not unlawful, and he will not oppose the ruler, even if he may have an otherwise contrary view in general.

Abu 'Iyaḍ

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<https://abuiyaad.com/d/fawzan-flu-prayer-contagion>