



*AMJA Declaration Regarding Shaving Beards to
Properly Fit N95 Masks for Protection Against
COVID-19*

Prepared by Office of the Imam
Islamic Association of Raleigh
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AMJA received several inquiries from Muslim physicians regarding the ruling of shaving the beards to properly fit the N95 mask for protection against COVID-19.

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

AMJA advises that whenever there is a need for such masks and alternative masks that do not require shaving are unavailable or less effective, then it would be permissible to trim the beard to the extent that would make proper fitting possible. If this is not achieved by trimming, then leaving a goatee would be the next option, as some Physicians were advised, and if that too prevented proper fitting, then shaving is permissible for this extraordinary indication, to prioritize the sacredness of life and prevent harm to oneself or others. May the blessings of Allah be on His last Messenger, and all praise belongs to the Lord of the Worlds.

