

TAMIL NADU STATE HAJJ COMMITTEE

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There were newspaper reports that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is considering banning of pilgrims above the age of 65 years and below 12 years from visiting Saudi Arabia for Hajj in view of threat of swine flu. The Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee took up the matter with Haj Committee of India and sought clarification. Haj Committee of India has now clarified that they have received a communication from the Foreign Ministry of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia according to which, no restriction based on age/sex has been imposed by them for Hajj 2009. They have further clarified the following points:-

- (i) Those who come for Hajj this year are required to submit valid inoculation certificate against seasonal flu taken at least two weeks before obtaining Hajj visas;
- (ii) Those who come for Hajj this year are required to submit valid inoculation certificate against (H1N1) flu taken at least two weeks before obtaining Hajj visas, if the same is available worldwide.
- (iii) Those suffering from chronic diseases, children and pregnant women may 'postpone' their Hajj and Umrah this year for the sake of their 'own safety'.

All the pilgrims are requested to note the clarifications and take appropriate action.

**K. ALLAUDIN, I.A.S.,
Member & Executive Officer.**

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