

Talking Points / Script for Messaging about Ramadan and COVID-19 Vaccines

These talking points / video script was developed by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in collaboration with Imam Wazir of Atlanta, Georgia. Community-based organizations may consider creating audio or video messages featuring faith leaders addressing potential questions or concerns from members of Muslim communities about COVID-19 vaccines and Ramadan.

1. Speaker should introduce themselves, name of the hometown/city, and the name of the mosque/scholarly institution. Mention a few remarks providing a “Ramadan Mubarak” to the listeners, wishing a blessed month, despite the circumstances we have faced this year.
2. A brief type of statement that COVID-19 is still a problem for the community (i.e., COVID-19 has caused and continues to cause much pain and suffering for our Muslim community in [name location]), including elderly community members.
3. An expressed desire to address COVID-19 as a community and as people of faith. For example, in the United States we lost 500,000 alone to the virus, and we need to come together as Muslim brothers and sisters who look out and care for one another, and our neighbors.
4. We are to address the possible concerns of getting vaccinated during Ramadan. Common concerns include but are not limited to:
 - The act itself preventing one from fasting
 - The injection itself breaking the fast
 - Side effects that would prevent one from fasting (i.e., cold-like symptoms)
5. Taking into consideration the concerns you might have, here is what we know of at this time:
 - According to the Fiqh Council of North American (FCNA), COVID-19 vaccinations do not invalidate fasting; They are safe, halal and can be administered while fasting



The International Rescue Committee helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and regain control of their future.

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC- RIM) is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support state and local health departments working with RIM communities. Learn more at nrcrim.umn.edu. Last update: 04/02/2021.

- All non-nutritional injections taken by the muscles are permissible to take during fasting. It is permissible to take the vaccine at any time, even when injected into the muscle
 - For e.g., You can still take the vaccine during daylight hours within the month and it will not break your fast
- 6. Cite religious text from the Qur'an, as appropriate and when needed, that supports understanding around 1) Vaccination and 2) Getting Support during Ramadan
- 7. End with the idea that we must continue to practice safety this Ramadan, even when we get the vaccine (i.e., wearing masks, social distancing, washing our hands), so we can continue to protect ourselves, our families and neighbors to ensure their wellbeing. And lastly, as a reminder again, the vaccine is permissible during Ramadan and is an added measure to help protect our community. Wishing everyone a Holy Month and God help us and reward us for our efforts to fast, and surround us with peace and safety.



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