As-salaam-alaikum and Ramadan Kareem to you. I'm [insert preferred name and title]. As we gather and celebrate this blessed month with our communities and loved ones, I want to share important information so that you can enjoy this holy month with health and happiness.

Our two previous Ramadans were spent trying to navigate a devastating pandemic. Alhamdulillah, many of us have since received our vaccine and booster doses and can now more safely gather with our communities. While we are in a better place than before, we must keep these points in mind about COVID-19:

The first point is that the vaccine and booster are both halal. You also cannot break your fast by getting these shots. I have been an [insert profession for eg imam] for nearly [insert number of years] and can confidently say this.

The second point I want to make is that it is our duty as Muslims to get vaccinated and protect ourselves and those around us. Think about the cancer patient at your iftar, the newborn baby in your family, or the elderly person praying next to you. By getting vaccinated, you protect yourself and those most vulnerable.

The third point is that the virus easily spreads in areas with many people, so I recommend wearing a face mask whenever you're around a lot of people, are indoors, and cannot keep a safe distance. Remember that if you do not feel well or have been exposed to the virus, you should stay home and get tested.

For my final point, I want to share a Quranic verse from Surah Al-Ma'idah, stating:

And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people.

So, this Ramadan, I ask you to get your vaccine and booster doses if you have not done so. If you have, please encourage your loved ones to do the same. You have no idea whose life you may be saving. Ramadan Mubarak! To learn more about vaccination during Ramadan, visit nrcrim.org. You can also text your ZIP code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233 to find vaccine locations near you in the United States.