



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about COVID-19 vaccines and fasting during Ramadan

These questions and answers were prepared by Imam Mohsen Elbeltagi, Swansea University Mosque, and reviewed by consultant medical microbiologist, Dr Angharad Davies, consultant histopathologist, Professor Sarah Coupland and consultant ophthalmologist Dr Rumana Hussain. You can find more FAQs and answers on the [British Islamic Medical Association website](#).

Does taking the COVID-19 vaccine break the fast?

Taking the COVID-19 vaccines currently licenced in the UK does not invalidate the fast, and it is permissible for the fasting person to have the jab given at one of the vaccine centres. Contemporary Muslim scholars have deemed the non-nutritious injections inconsequential to the fast and would not invalidate it. Individuals should not delay their COVID vaccines on account of Ramadan.

This is the verdict (fatwa) of the [International Islamic Fiqh Academy](#) and various fatwa agencies in several Muslim countries. The basis of this fatwa is that such injections are not like eating or drinking in form (entry into the hollow interior) or purpose (nutrition and hydration). Based on this, there is no harm or issue in getting the COVID-19 vaccine while fasting in Ramadan.

What if I experience intolerable side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine during fasting?

Most side effects are mild, lasting a few hours (maximum 1 day) and are self-limiting. However, should an individual become more unwell after receiving the vaccine, then it is permissible for the individual to break the fast due to the illness; for example, taking paracetamol or a similar over-the-counter anti-inflammatory painkiller. Find out more about possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirusvaccine/>.