

VACCINE

Rasūlullāh sallāllahu 'alayhi wa sallam rendered the following advice to Sayyidunā Ibn 'Abbās radiyallāhu 'anhumā:

“Protect [the commands of] Allāh Ta'ālā and Allāh Ta'ālā will protect you. Protect [the commands of] Allāh Ta'ālā and His help will be with you. If you ask, then ask from Allāh Ta'ālā and if you need help, then seek help from Allāh Ta'ālā. Know with conviction that if the entire mankind gets together to benefit you, they cannot do so, except to the extent that Allāh Ta'ālā decrees; and if they all get together to harm you, they cannot harm you except if it is the decree of Allāh Ta'ālā. The Pens [recording Destiny] have been withdrawn and the scrolls have dried.” [Tirmidhī, 2516]

“Deliberation is from Allāh Ta'ālā and haste is from Shaytān.” [Abū Ya'lā, 4256 / Tirmidhī, 2012]

We have received many queries with regard to the imminent Covid-19 vaccine rollout programme.

After extensive deliberation, research and consideration, including consultations and input from various medical professionals, our position on the matter is as follows:

- Apart from fiqhi aspects relating to the constituents and ingredients, a significant aspect in determining the **acceptability of any treatment** is its safety and latent risks to one's health and well-being.
- Concerns relating to the current COVID-19 vaccines include among others, the potential risk of developing **autoimmune diseases** as well as the **potential risk of developing a more severe COVID-19 illness in the event of one acquiring the infection after having taken the vaccine**. This latter concern, known as antibody dependent enhancement, is a well described complication of other coronavirus and related vaccines that were developed in the past. Due to the lack of long term safety data at present, it is unknown whether persons taking the COVID-19 vaccines will develop these complications.
- In addition, reports of deaths in various parts of the world following COVID-19 vaccination increases the uncertainty. Also, **the effectiveness**

of the vaccine against new strains of the virus has not been established.

- Furthermore, it is understood that the **global distribution of these vaccines have been extremely rushed**. A process that traditionally takes between five and ten years prior to roll out has come to market within a few months. Hence, overall, **there is a lack of medium and long-term safety data** of the COVID-19 vaccines.

As Muslims, we are duty bound to maintain our well-being and avert harm and, if sickness were to befall us, to use those means which are Halāl and, through experience, carry a reasonable expectation of cure.

We are also duty bound to abstain from those means which may have potentially adverse consequences.

Considering our Shar'ī obligations, the uncertainty about the ingredients, the information available to date, the fact that it is a preventative means and not medication per se, we are not in a position to promote it and therefore advise caution.

Our Beloved Nabī sallāllahu 'alayhi wa sallam has given us a definite remedy for safety from every form of harm and disease. We are advised to recite the following du'ā thrice every morning and evening:

اللَّهُمَّ عَافِنِي فِي بَدَنِي، اللَّهُمَّ عَافِنِي فِي سَمْعِي، اللَّهُمَّ عَافِنِي فِي بَصَرِي، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ.

Translation: O Allāh, grant me 'āfiyah (well-being, goodness) in my body; O Allāh grant me 'āfiyah (well-being, goodness) in my hearing; O Allāh, grant me 'āfiyah (well-being, goodness) in my vision. There is none worthy of worship but Thee.

[Sunan Abū Dāwūd, 5090]

May Allāh Ta'ālā preserve our health and īmān and grant us 'āfiyah in our Dīn, dunyā and Ākhirah. Āmīn

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WIFĀQUL 'ULAMA (SA)
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN 'ULAMA

ASPIRING TO PRESERVE THE ESSENCE OF SUNNAH