

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (IMAN) ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND VACCINES

In Name of Allaah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise belongs to Allaah ﷻ alone. We ask for His help, blessings and guidance. May Allaah bless the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, elevate his mention and honour him.

Muslim communities have been affected in a variety of ways by the current COVID-19 pandemic caused by the coronavirus SARS-COV-2 which has spread rapidly across the world, entirely changing people's lives. IMAN being the umbrella body for all Muslim health Professionals and allied workers in Nigeria aspires to bring hope to our communities by the will of Allaah ﷻ through providing practical tips that are grounded in sound Islamic principles and evidence-based scientific knowledge.

IMAN recently organized a national webinar on Sunday, 10th Jumada thani, 1442 AH, equivalent to the 24th of January, 2021 to review the current COVID-19 pandemic locally and globally and the scientific and religious evidences concerning the COVID-19 vaccine. Issues were discussed in great depth by seasoned medical professionals and religious leaders as well as policy makers in order to derive guidance for the Ummah

IMAN affirms that the COVID-19 pandemic is real and not a conspiracy. IMAN also recognizes that the pandemic comes under the islamic ruling of a plague. The Prophet ﷺ said in a hadith in Saheeh al- Bukhari 3474: "The one who stays in their land at the time of a plague, has patience, seeks reward, knowing fully that

nothing will afflict him except that which Allaah ﷻ decreed for him; he will be given the reward like that of a martyr" This includes those who die of the disease, those who recover and those not afflicted by the disease.

We implore the Muslim community to persevere in the use of spiritual protective measures such as praying on time, repentance and prophetic du'as like before leaving the home, seeking protection against diseases, and du'as recited in the morning and evening. We also implore the Muslim Ummah to continue to take the following practical and scientifically proactive measures proven to protect against contracting covid 19 like:

1. Avoiding unnecessary travels, crowded places or any place in which the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 is high.
2. Going out of the house only when it is absolutely necessary, and ensuring the proper use of facemask when outdoors. Practice of physical distancing of at least two meters between individuals should be sustained.
3. Sanitizing or washing the hands as frequently as possible, and avoiding touching the mouth, eyes, or nose indiscriminately.
4. Seeking medical attention If sick with fever or cough. It is advised to remain indoors while awaiting the expert's directives, and practicing cough etiquette and disposal of used tissues properly.
5. Use of appropriate protective equipment and observance of universal precautions by health workers .
6. Observing the recommendations of the NCDC and IMAN guidelines in handling the bodies of those who have died from COVID-19

7. Thereafter put your trust in Allah ﷻ

IMAN noted with concern the ongoing controversy concerning the newly discovered vaccines against COVID-19. Most of these issues emanate from un-reliable sources generating mistrust in the Ummah. All the conspiracy theories are either false, fabricated or unfounded. **IMAN hereby affirms that the COVID-19 vaccines are scientifically proven to be safe and provide protection against the disease, and that it does not contain chips nor contaminants. Furthermore, the vaccines will be tested and verified by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) before they can be deployed for public use.**

The Muslim individuals and communities should obtain information from verifiable/reliable sources, and should cooperate with the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency in its mandate to vaccinate citizens once the vaccines became available.

Obtain reliable information on the pandemic and the planned vaccination exercise from IMAN National website (www.iman.org.ng), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (www.ncdc.gov.ng), National Primary Health Care Development Agency (www.nphcda.gov.ng), Federal Ministry of Health (www.health.gov.ng), and the World Health Organization (www.who.int).

IMAN National

27th January 2021/13th Jumadal Thaani 1442