

# **PART-2: COVID-19 ANSWERING THE MYTHS**

## **Use this as:**

- A presentation slide deck
- Download / share on social media
- Use as script for 1-2-1 discussions



**BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

**Updated 27th January 2021**

# MYTH: The vaccine may modify your DNA



**TRUTH:** There is no way that RNA can change the DNA of anyone.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine uses mRNA technology. The mRNA vaccine teaches our cells to make a protein that triggers a protective immune response. The mRNA is broken down soon after it enters the body.

mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, where our DNA is kept.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**MYTH:** The inventor of the PCR test said it was not made to detect diseases such as COVID



**TRUTH:** There is no evidence that Dr Kary Mullis, the inventor of the PCR process, ever said this.

The PCR process helps scientists to detect genetic material. If a sample contains the genetic material of the COVID virus then the test will be positive.

Dr Mullis died in August 2019, months before the first case of COVID was reported.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: PCR is inaccurate and overestimating COVID infections



**TRUTH:** No test is 100% accurate but there is no evidence to suggest that the concerns regarding COVID infections and the severity of this disease are misplaced.

Whilst there are false positives and false negatives with all tests, data including the number of hospitalisations with symptoms of COVID and number of deaths give us a good indication of how serious the situation is.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# **MYTH:** There's no point getting vaccinated due to new COVID strains



**TRUTH:** There is currently no evidence to suggest that the vaccines will not protect against the new strains.

It is normal for viruses such as the flu virus to go through genetic changes.

Scientists are looking at the characteristics of the new strains. Small variations do not often affect the effectiveness of a vaccine.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: Vaccines contain alcohol & therefore are impermissible



**TRUTH:** The Oxford AZ Vaccine contains ethanol at an amount that is less than what is found in natural foods or bread.

Many scholars have deemed the Oxford AZ Vaccine to be permissible as the amount of ethanol is negligible.

The religious permissibility of any product is for scholars to decide, so please refer to those you trust.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**MYTH:** The COVID Vaccine contains Genetically Modified Organisms which are harmful to humans



**TRUTH:** The virus in the AZ COVID vaccine has been modified so it cannot multiply and cause disease in our bodies.

GMOs are commonly associated with food and agriculture and have been used in licensed medicines for a number of years.

In the AZ COVID vaccine, the virus has been altered to remove its normal genetic instruction. This has been replaced with instruction to help develop immunity to COVID.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



# MYTH: Vaccines contain pork or other animal derivatives



**TRUTH:** There are no pork or other animal ingredients in the current available vaccines.

Even in circumstances when there are impermissible ingredients in a vaccine, many renowned scholars have concluded that they are permissible if there are no alternative options and the data suggests that the vaccine is of benefit.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



# MYTH: The COVID vaccines can give you COVID



**TRUTH:** No. You cannot get COVID from the vaccine.

The COVID vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognise and fight the virus that causes COVID.

This process can cause side effects which are usually mild. The current vaccines cannot make you sick with COVID.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: COVID vaccines can make you infertile (unable to have children)



**TRUTH:** There is no evidence to suggest that the COVID vaccines cause infertility.

This myth started when a German epidemiologist suggested that the COVID vaccine would cause the body to make anti-Syncytin-1 antibodies. He admitted that there was no indication that this was the case.

A number of women who had the vaccine in the trial have since become pregnant.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**MYTH:** Catching COVID after having the vaccine is proof they don't work



**TRUTH:** The immune system can take a number of days or weeks to generate an immune response before protection from the virus begins.

The COVID vaccine will reduce the chances of suffering from the serious complications of COVID.

No vaccine is 100% effective, so everyone should continue to take the recommended precautions to avoid infection.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: You don't need vaccination if you already had COVID



**TRUTH:** We do not know how long protection remains after COVID infection, therefore having the vaccine is advised.

People infected with COVID are likely to be protected for some months but further research is required. These individuals could still transmit the virus to others.

The current advice is to wait 4 weeks after having COVID before having the vaccine.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: You can choose which COVID vaccine you get



**TRUTH:** Almost no one will be offered a choice due to logistics and availability. The best vaccine is therefore the one you are offered.

All the available vaccines offer a high level of immunity. People should be assured that whichever vaccine they get has been approved by the MHRA and met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**MYTH:** If I decide not to take the vaccine, it does not affect others



**TRUTH:** Your decisions don't just impact you but affect everyone, especially the most vulnerable and sick.

You are more likely to suffer with long COVID and severe complications if you do not have the vaccine. This will add pressure to the health service and have an effect on people who are suffering from other illnesses. It will also impact on your close ones who have to care for you during this period.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**MYTH:** I'm young & low risk so the COVID vaccine isn't for me



**TRUTH:** In the last few weeks, adults aged 18 - 64 have accounted for 40% of daily COVID admissions to hospital.

Although the risk is higher with age and comorbidities, COVID can affect people of any age. COVID can cause long term complications and death. The vaccine is designed to reduce the risk of these disastrous consequences.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



# MYTH: Only the really sick & elderly are dying from COVID



**TRUTH:** This is untrue and unethical.

The average age in intensive care units is just over 60 years old. Pre-existing conditions that make one high risk can be as simple as asthma, diabetes or being overweight.

All life is precious regardless of age or past medical history. To suggest otherwise is troubling and unislamic.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# **MYTH:** There is no liability for anyone if the vaccines have problems



**TRUTH:** The manufacturers are not exempt from all liabilities.

To encourage pharmaceutical companies to produce COVID vaccines without incurring substantial financial loss, the Government has given them immunity from civil liability and included the vaccines in the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme.

The companies still have obligations they need to fulfil. This is not a new concept. Many common vaccines already fall under this scheme.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: There are health professionals who object to the COVID vaccine



**TRUTH:** The majority of health professionals, public health experts and scientists are promoting the COVID vaccines.

Scientists from around the world have come together to develop safe COVID vaccines that will help to save thousands of lives.

As with any profession, there will be a fringe minority who disagree with the consensus view. The arguments are rarely based on evidence.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**MYTH:** Vaccines should be 100% safe before being released to the public



**TRUTH:** Vaccines are a safe way to prevent vaccine preventable diseases but no medication is 100% safe.

Vaccines are held to a higher standard than many other medications but it is important to not create impossible goals for treatments.

There are not many things in life that are 100% safe.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

# MYTH: People are dying from the COVID-19 vaccines



**TRUTH:** Some people will die after having a COVID vaccine. This does not mean it was the vaccine that caused the death.

If 10 million people are vaccinated and the vaccine has no side effects whatsoever, 14,000 can still be expected to die from entirely unrelated causes.

The only way to determine if vaccines have serious side effects is by looking at the data from many vaccinated people and comparing them to what can normally be expected from people of that age group.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION