

BEST PRACTICES FOR VACCINATION SITES SERVING MUSLIMS DURING RAMADAN

Vaccination sites can help support an equitable roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine during the month of Ramadan by ensuring that their policies and practices allow Muslims to receive vaccination while practicing their faith. Ramadan falls this year between the evenings of April 12 and May 12.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from drinking and eating between dawn and sunset. Muslims may or may not choose to get vaccinated while fasting.

Here are some things that vaccination sites can do to create a welcoming and supportive space for Muslims who want to be vaccinated:

- Create a space where people can pray. The area should be clearly marked in multiple languages, clean, allow sufficient space for social distancing and, if possible, privacy from public view. Muslims observe five prayer times a day: Fajr (dawn), Dhuhr (after midday), Asr (afternoon), Maghrib (sunset), Isha (nighttime).
- Provide a way for people to keep their spot in line for the vaccine while they step aside to pray.
- Offer service during hours when people will not be fasting (before dawn or after sunset).
- Provide visible signage in multiple languages directing people to restrooms where they can wash themselves in preparation for prayer.
- Enable visitors to break their fast by permitting eating and drinking, for example in a designated space, and providing access to drinking water, while still observing COVID-19 public health guidelines.