

Press Release

15/01/2021

WFCOM Webinar, Covid-19 Vaccines; Your Questions Answered

On Saturday 9th January, Waltham Forest Council of Mosques (WFCOM) held a community webinar on the Covid-19 vaccines. The primary intention was to inform and educate ourselves and our congregations about the truth and facts surrounding the vaccinations, by giving qualified experts a platform to address common concerns.

Islam has placed a long-standing and significant importance on verifying the correctness of news. Such that the **Holy Qur'an's** guidance over 1400 years ago states:

“O you who believe, if a sinful person brings you a report, verify its correctness, lest you should harm a people out of ignorance, and then become remorseful on what you did.” Qur'an, 49:6

The panel of experts extended from local Medical Professionals, a Scholar to a Public Health Expert, therefore covering a wide scope of specialities.

It featured input from;

- Dr Imran Zia, Clinical Director and Consultant of Emergency Medicine, Whipps Cross Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust- **“The Reality on the Frontline”**.
- Dr Wajid Akhter, Senior Council Member- British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA)- **“The Process behind BIMA community guidance document”**.
- Dr Imran Kausar, Executive Director of Novartis Gene Therapies, Medical Doctor and Specialist in Pharmaceutical Medicines- **“The Science Behind the Vaccines”**.
- Shaykh Yunus Dudhwala, Scholar & Head of Chaplaincy at Barts Health NHS Trust- **“The Islamic Perspective”**.
- Mr Joe McDonnell, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Waltham Forest- **“The Public Health Perspective here in Waltham Forest”**.

The YouTube Live stream recording has over 3000 views plus additional audiences over Facebook. **You may watch the video recording on our YouTube channel, www.wfc.com.org/youtube**

The expert panel covered dozens of questions emailed to us in advance, as well as during our live Q&A session. Any remaining questions will be answered via a page on our website very soon.

We would like to thank all of the panellists for sharing their expert knowledge, it was an honour and privilege for us to host them all. May Allah grant them a great reward.

Lastly our thanks to our Waltham Forest family, community, and congregations for engaging so well with the webinar. We pray to Allah, that it serves as a means of reliable and true information for our community and beyond, to make an educated and more informed decision.

We ask our congregations to turn to Allah, seek His forgiveness abundantly, give in charity and to supplicate daily.

May Allah ﷻ shower His Mercy and protect us all.

Note to Editors:

1. For further information, please contact salaam@wfc.com.org
2. Waltham Forest Council of Mosques is an umbrella body founded in 2007, consisting of 11 Mosques from the London Borough of Waltham Forest. The main function is to promote racial and religious harmony and facilitate mutual understanding by having closer cooperation between local Mosques, service providers and faith communities, as well as advising on community issues.

Member Mosques:

- **Cann Hall Deen & Educational Trust**, 145 Cann Hall Road, London, E11 3NJ
- **Chingford Mosque**, 92 Chingford Mount Road, Chingford, E4 9AA
- **Faizan e Islam**, 8 Corbett Road, Walthamstow, E17 3JZ
- **Faizan e Islam**, 757 Lea Bridge Rd, London, E17 9DZ
- **Jamia Masjid, Muslim Community Trust**, 324-326 High Road, Leyton, E10 5PW
- **Leytonstone Islamic Association**, Dacre Road, London, E11 3AG
- **Masjid & Madrassa Al Tawhid**, 80 High Road, Leyton, E15 2BP
- **Masjid Abu Bakr**, 26a Mansfield Road, Walthamstow, E17 6PJ
- **Masjid e-Umer**, 79 Queens Road, Walthamstow, E17 8QR
- **Noor Ul Islam Masjid**, 713 High Road, Leyton, E10 5AB
- **Waltham Forest Islamic Association**, 439-451 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, E10 7EA