

No COVID-19 vaccination, no Hajj!

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 03 March, 2021



Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's Health Minister Tawfiq Al Rabiah said "compulsory vaccination" would be required for all Hajj pilgrims

The ministry did not specify whether this year's Hajj, which is due to begin on the evening of July 17, would exclude pilgrims from outside the kingdom in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Last year's rituals were limited to just 1,000 pilgrims who lived in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia began its vaccination program on December 17, with the Moderna, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca jabs being approved for use

Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry issued a statement today, announcing that any Muslim wanting to perform the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca will have to provide a documented proof that they have received a [COVID-19](#) vaccine jab.

In that statement, Saudi health officials said that vaccination would be "the main condition for participation," after Health Minister Tawfiq Al Rabiah said "compulsory vaccination" would be required for all pilgrims.

All Muslims who can perform Hajj are required to do so at least once in their lifetime. The pilgrimage is comprised of a five-day series of rituals attended by two

million people in and around Mecca, the spiritual home of Islam. Muslims believe the rituals offer a chance to wipe clean past sins and start anew before God.

The kingdom began its vaccination program on December 17, with the Moderna, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca jabs being approved for use.

So far, Saudi officials say there have been 377,700 cases of COVID-19 and the kingdom has reported some 6,500 coronavirus-related fatalities.

Latest news: [K.A.Azad no more](#)