



*Al-Azhar's Declaration Regarding Fasting the  
Month of Ramadan During the Coronavirus  
Pandemic*

Prepared by Office of the Imam  
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## Q. Does the ruling of fasting Ramadan change in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic?

**A.** On 14<sup>th</sup> of Sha'ban of 1441 (4/7/2020), the Fiqh Committee for Islamic Research in Al-Azhar's Center for Islamic Research held their 13<sup>th</sup> emergency meeting to discuss the ramifications of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the extent of its effects on fasting the month of Ramadan. Physicians, various specialized practitioners in the medical field, representatives from the World Health Organization, and several sharia scholars from Al-Azhar University were all in attendance for this meeting.

The committee decided, after discussion, that there is no scientific evidence at this point that demonstrates any correlation between fasting and contracting the coronavirus. Based on that, the default Islamic ruling which obligates fasting upon Muslims is to be maintained except for those who have a concession not to fast due to a valid excuse.

We ask Allah SWT to lift this affliction from humanity, and all success is found with Allah the Exalted.

**Fiqh Committee for Islamic Research  
Al-Azhar Center for Islamic Research**

