

Catholic Guidance for Receiving Covid Vaccines

Last week, the Federal Drug Administration approved a third COVID-19 vaccine, resulting in three now in use: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. What should Catholics know about receiving these COVID-19 vaccines?

- **Our bishops have encouraged Catholics to get vaccinated** (unless medically indicated otherwise). Vaccination against COVID-19 is an act of charity in light of the virus's grave risk to the life and health of others.
- Catholics may receive any of the three vaccines offered. There has been discussion in media about the morality of the vaccines, but the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith notes it is **morally acceptable** to receive COVID-19 vaccines that use a compromised fetal cell line in development, in light of the grave risk to public health and availability. Their document, linked below, provides a discussion of this topic, including remote cooperation.
- **Delaying or declining a vaccination may risk the health and life of others**, especially those who are not able to be vaccinated due to medical conditions. As the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, with the Pontifical Academy of Life, notes, "On the moral responsibility of undergoing vaccination ... it is necessary to reiterate how this issue also involves the relationship between personal health and public health, showing their close interdependence. In the light of this connection, we consider it important that a responsible decision be taken in this regard, since refusal of the vaccine may also constitute a risk to others."

Information provided by Maryland Catholic Conference