



# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

## COVID-19 Vaccination Catholic Resource Sheet

### Diocese of Phoenix

- [Diocese of Phoenix COVID-19 Response Webpage](#)
- [Diocese of Phoenix Statement on COVID-19 Vaccines, December 15, 2020](#)

“In concurrence with moral and scientific guidance from the [National Catholic Bioethics Center](#) and [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#), the Diocese of Phoenix affirms that the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are morally acceptable and viable options for combatting the coronavirus. The [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) have provided this guidance as well. These vaccines were granted emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and their development does not originate with abortion-derived cells.

Not all vaccines in development avoid this direct connection with abortion. For example, vaccines developed by Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca used abortion-derived cells in development. This direct connection to the evil of abortion makes these vaccines morally problematic.

Due to the serious nature of the pandemic, Catholics should prayerfully consider getting vaccinated and consult their physicians or health care providers for personalized medical information. The Diocese of Phoenix urges local government leaders to ensure safe and affordable access to these vaccines, most especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.”

### National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC)

- [Statement on Vaccine Mandates](#)
- [Individual Catholic Conscience Vaccination Exemption letter template](#)

### Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)

- [Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-COVID-19 Vaccines, December 17, 2020](#)

2. In this sense, when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available (e.g. in countries where vaccines without ethical problems are not made available to physicians and patients, or where their distribution is more difficult due to special storage and transport conditions, or when various types of vaccines are distributed in the same country but health authorities do not allow citizens to choose the vaccine with which to be inoculated) *it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.*

5. At the same time, practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary.

## [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#)

- [What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Vaccine Chart](#)

## [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

- [Moral Conscience](#)

1776 "Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment.... For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God.... His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths."

1777 Moral conscience,<sup>48</sup> present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil.<sup>49</sup> It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme Good to which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking.

1782 Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. "He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters

1790 A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself. Yet it can happen that moral conscience remains in ignorance and makes erroneous judgments about acts to be performed or already committed.

## [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)

### [Vaccines and Biomedical Research](#)

- [Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines](#)