



ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CANADA CANADIAN PROVINCE OF THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

STATEMENT ON THE FAITHFUL RECEIVING COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Concerns and questions have arisen as to whether it is morally permissible for the faithful to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. The short answer is: Yes.

The focus of these concerns or questions, and any religious exemption, is whether the receiving of these vaccines violates God's moral laws. In particular, whether aborted foetal cells were used in the research and development of these vaccines, which would be a violation of the sanctity of life and render us complicit in the moral evil of abortion.

Pfizer and Moderna did not use aborted foetal cells in their vaccine research. They used cells from "fetal cell lines", that were created from the fiftieth generation of fetal cell lines that were created in laboratories. The original foetal cells from which these cell lines were created came from a 1973 abortion in Holland. All modern vaccines and many common medications have used these laboratory-created cell lines in their research. As set out in the statement of the Alberta Conference of Catholic Bishops (December 2, 2020):

In such a situation, we are guided by the Church's teaching, which directs us to differentiate among various degrees of cooperation in the evil of the act of abortion. Differentiation in degrees of the moral gravity of cooperation first pertains to the original abortion(s), then the derivation of cell lines, the process of vaccine development using these cell lines, the subsequent production and eventual sale, and finally the use of such a vaccine. With respect to someone simply receiving the vaccine, the degree of connection with the original evil act is so remote that, when there also exists a proportionately grave reason for vaccination, such as the current, urgent need to halt the COVID-19 pandemic, then the Church assures us that it is morally permissible for Catholics to receive it for the good of personal and public health.

The position of the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada (TAC) is in agreement with that of our Catholic Christian brethren; namely, that there is no moral violation of God's laws in the research or development of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, nor in a Christian receiving these vaccines as part of the national vaccination program to reduce (and eventually eliminate) the spread of the Covid-19 virus and its associated variants.

It is important, however, to stress that any vaccination program must be voluntary, respecting the individual conscience; and no one may be forced to be vaccinated. Regardless, there is the moral argument of a Christian duty of care to our neighbour; and through a safe, medically proven vaccine, the lessening of the evil caused by this virus in terms of infection, sickness, and death.

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