

Make Your Voice Heard

While Catholics may receive or forgo COVID-19 vaccines in good conscience, all should speak out against the use of abortion-

derived cell lines in bringing vaccines to market. Understand our duty to call for more ethical alternatives.

Did you know that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)^[1] and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)^[2] have issued guidance related to COVID-19 vaccines?^[3] It is important to note that this guidance assumes we object to, and will protest against, the tragic, unnecessary practice of relying on abortion-derived cell lines in the production and testing of vaccines. Here are five simple ways you can make your Pro-Life voice heard:

Pray.

By our prayers we reveal our innermost selves, our desires, and entrust all circumstances to God, our heavenly Father. Prayer is always worthwhile and, in a way, necessary to the work of advocacy as it further disposes us and the things of this world to God. Pray for an end to procured abortion, for all those considering abortion, and for an end to the use of abortion-derived cell lines in the production and testing of vaccines.

Ask.

Knowledge comes with responsibility. We are called to propose the truth in love, to raise awareness and to object when we are aware of that which is contrary to faith and reason. When appropriate, ask family and friends if they know about the moral concerns related to COVID-19 vaccines. Consider sharing this resource and/or directing them to www.catholicnh.org/coronavirus for additional information.

Write.

Thanks to the USCCB and other Pro-Life organizations, we now have templates and direction for sending letters of objection to those pharmaceutical companies that rely on abortion-derived cell lines. Visit <http://www.catholicnh.org/coronavirus> for links that will direct you to these and other helpful resources.

Serve.

The culture of life will grow when more people take a stand at the local level, making a difference in their respective communities. Consider becoming a part of your parish's Catholic Citizenship committee or another local Pro-Life organization, as a form of opposition to the use of abortion-derived cell lines in vaccines.

Support.

Pro-Life organizations depend on the support of patrons in order to continue their important work. Plenty of groups at the local and national level are committed to defending the dignity of all human life; some have been advocating for vaccines that are more ethical for years. Do some research and prayerfully consider donating to an organization that is willing to stand up and take action for the most vulnerable among us.

[1] The CDF is the Vatican department that serves the Church by safeguarding the Church's teaching on faith and morals.

[2] The USCCB is the assembly of US bishops that provides guidance and support to the Church in the United States.

[3] The CDF & USCCB recognize legitimate reasons some may in good conscience forgo COVID-19 vaccination while also teaching that others may in good conscience choose vaccination. Conclusions vary in part because, unfortunately, all COVID-19 vaccines presently in circulation were either tested or produced with abortion-derived cell lines. Choosing vaccination is morally permissible due to the great causal distance between the original evil act of procured abortion and the act of receiving COVID-19 vaccines reliant on abortion-derived cell lines – the intent and action of accepting vaccination is very "remote" (distant and different) from the related act of abortion. Additional considerations affecting the moral permissibility of receiving ethically imperfect vaccines include the gravity of the pandemic and the relative benefit of inoculation for individuals and society. If one has a choice, he or she should receive the least ethically problematic vaccine available. Those choosing not to be vaccinated should take other measures to curb virus transmission. To read related guidance in full, visit <http://www.catholicnh.org/coronavirus>.