



Dear friends,

Reassured by the Church that remote mediate material cooperation in evil is morally licit - that we may indeed take vaccines - we come to the question of whether or not we should actually take them. To this, the Church has a nuanced but firm 'yes'! **We have a moral responsibility to vaccinate** not only in care for ourselves but for the safety of others, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society.

“On the other hand, the moral obligation to guarantee the vaccination coverage necessary for the safety of others is no less urgent, especially the safety more vulnerable subjects such as pregnant women and those affected by immunodeficiency who cannot be vaccinated against these diseases.”

“While the commitment to ensuring that every vaccine has no connection in its preparation to any material of originating from an abortion, the moral responsibility to vaccinate is reiterated in order to avoid serious health risks for children and the general population.”

- *Note on Italian vaccine issue*, Pontifical Academy for Life

The Church is careful not to require any particular vaccine - and indeed allows for the varying calls of conscience among the faithful. The document *Dignitatis Personae* reminds us that “Of course, within this general picture there exist differing degrees of responsibility”, prompting careful discernment in these decisions though always attentive to the health of the most vulnerable. Through the Pontifical Academy for Life, the Church reminds us that there is a **moral obligation to guarantee the vaccination coverage** necessary for the safety of others.

In short, we may not claim a blanket exemption from participating in the work of safeguarding others, though we rightly discern how we will do so with each vaccine. Given the nature of vaccines - that the more people are vaccinated, the more all are protected (even those who can not be vaccinated) - the Church strongly encourages all to receive vaccinations where possible so as to contribute to the health of all those around us. May we pray for wisdom in how we do our part.

- Father Maurer

Reference documents

Dignitatis Personae (On Certain Bioethical Questions), Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, 2008 - https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html

Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2005 [https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/\\$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf](https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf)

Note on Italian vaccine issue, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2017 <http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/the-academy/activity-academy/note-vaccini.html>