



Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Morally Acceptable for Use March 3, 2021

On March 2, 2021, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a [statement](#) addressing the use of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in the United States.

In the joint statement, the chairmen of the USCCB Committees on Doctrine, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Pro-Life Activities, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, noted that “Pfizer and Moderna’s vaccines raised concerns because an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines raising additional moral concerns.”

Referencing the December 17, 2020 [Note](#) from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Committees made clear that ““when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available ... *it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.*””

The Committees also noted that “if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna’s vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson’s.”

However, the Committees also affirmed “that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good” amid the ongoing world-wide pandemic that has affected so many lives.

Furthermore, the Vatican COVID-19 Commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life, stated clearly in their [Note](#) on December 29, 2020 that “all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience and that the use of such vaccines does not signify some sort of cooperation with voluntary abortion.”

For more resources, please visit:

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

ENGLISH:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

SPANISH:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_sp.html

Vatican COVID-19 Commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/12/29/201229c.html>

USCCB – U.S. Bishop Chairmen for The Committees of Doctrine and Pro-life Activities

ENGLISH: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>

SPANISH: [https://www.usccb.org/resources/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines_SP%20MH971%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines_SP%20MH971%20(002).pdf)

USCCB – Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines

ENGLISH:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Answers%20to%20Key%20Ethical%20Questions%20About%20COVID-19%20Vaccines.pdf>

SPANISH: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/COVID%20Q%20and%20A%20Final%20SP-MH.pdf>

California Catholic Conference – Statement on Vaccinations

<https://cacatholic.org/article/vaccinate-protect-health-yourself-and-your-community>