

Vaccines and Morality

There are a lot of concerns and questions, not to mention politicization, around COVID-19 and its vaccines. I encourage you to educate yourself, not only on the medical aspects, but also on the moral and ethical implications. The Diocese of Manchester website has several links and resources to help wade through the ethical information (www.catholicnh.org/coronavirus).

As a pro-life people, we are called to uphold the sacred dignity of **each person**, from the first moment of fertilization until natural death. This complicates things when some companies use cell lines derived from aborted children in the design, development and production of the vaccine (Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca); or in the confirmatory lab tests (Moderna and Pfizer).

The bottom line is that, given the current situation, the Church says that it is morally permissible (note that it is not obligatory, not morally reprehensible) to get the COVID-19 vaccination.

However, as a pro-life people, we are also called to action – to reach out to pharmaceutical companies, strongly encouraging them to come up with ethical ways of researching, producing and testing vaccines and other pharmaceuticals.

On the back is a sample letter I encourage you to pray about sending (to download the template, go to www.cathmed.org/vaccine-letter-in-objection). Below is the contact information for the presidents of Pfizer and Moderna, the makers of the two vaccines widely available in the United States today, as well as links for AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me and we can try to wade through the information together (603-635-3525, fathervon@comcast.net).

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Moderna Global Headquarters
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AstraZeneca: www.astrazeneca-us.com/contact-us/product-information.html

Johnson & Johnson: www.ccc-consumercarecenter.com/UCUConfiguration?id=a0758000004N1aL

Dear

I am (*or We are*) writing to thank you for the outstanding work _____ (company) has done in vaccine research and development. I, along with millions of Americans, appreciate and support your ongoing efforts to develop effective, safe and widely available vaccines against serious, potentially fatal infectious diseases.

However, I – along with many Americans – must also strenuously object to the unethical and unnecessary use of tissue, cells, or cell lines derived from voluntary abortions or human embryos in vaccine design, development or production.

While many will consent to receiving such morally tainted vaccines for the common good, we do so under duress due to their association with the exploitation of innocent human life, no matter how remote.

As a nation, we must all work to restore the fundamental principle that the dignity of every human life must be defended from its inception to natural death. This duty is particularly significant for the pharmaceutical industry, whose mission is to safeguard life and health without compromising fundamental ethical standards.

I implore you to work expeditiously toward the goal of developing safe and effective vaccines for the welfare of all without human exploitation and thereby avoid placing anyone in the position of having to choose between being vaccinated against a serious disease or violating his or her conscience.

Sincerely