



# Recent Notes on COVID-19 Vaccines

As we continue to face unprecedented conditions as a result of the global threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, moral and ethical concerns have been raised about COVID-19 Vaccines. The following notes can help answer questions on the morality of using some COVID-19 vaccines and the ethical issues related to their development and distribution.

Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 21 December 2020.

A note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was approved by Pope Francis, states that due to the situation of the ongoing pandemic, “all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive.” The note addresses doubts and questions about the moral aspects of COVID-19 vaccines, including the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies, the morality of vaccination, vaccine access, and makes clear that these vaccines are not a legitimization of abortion. (*Vatican News, 21 December 2020*)

Vaccine for all. 20 points for a fairer and healthier world from the Vatican COVID-19 Commission & Pontifical Academy for Life, 29 December 2020.

Jointly released by the Vatican COVID-19 Commission & Pontifical Academy for Life, this note addresses the issues and priorities arising at the various stages of the vaccine journey, from research and development to patents and commercial exploitation, including approval, distribution and administration. The note reiterates the critical role of vaccines to defeat the pandemic, not just for individual personal health but to protect the health of all. The Vatican Commission and the Pontifical Academy of Life remind world leaders that vaccines must be provided to all fairly and equitably, prioritizing those most in need. (*Press Release of the Vatican COVID-19 Commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life, 29 December 2020*)

Urgent Action for Access to COVID-19 vaccines: Nobody should be left out from Caritas Internationalis, 5 February 2021.

In a statement released in 2021, Caritas Internationalis called on political leaders to look beyond the interests of their own nations and ensure that the COVID-19 vaccines are accessible to all, especially the poor, and that nobody is left out. The confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations operating in over 200 countries worldwide, called for a number of specific actions, including a meeting of the UN Security Council to address the issue of vaccine access as a global security problem, debt remissions for the poorest nations, promotion of local vaccines, and more. (*Vatican News, 5 February 2021*)