

Statement of the Diocese of Toledo Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

During these days, when many have experienced compromised health due to COVID-19 or have suffered the loss of loved ones because of the virus, there is a greater need for each of us to recommend one another to our compassionate Lord and His Blessed Mother, who never fail to be near us in times of trial. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the distribution of vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of these vaccines raises a number of moral and practical issues which merit careful consideration. It is out of deep concern and pastoral solicitude for the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo (Diocese), that this guidance is offered.

- Members of the faithful are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccination for the protection of their own health, that of others, and for the common good of all.
- It is morally acceptable to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Members of the faithful are not obligated or mandated to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), which is responsible for safeguarding Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, with the approval of the Holy Father, recently confirmed that, while no one is morally obligated to be vaccinated against COVID-19, each person, however, has the duty to protect one's own health and to pursue the common good of all. When means to prevent the ongoing spread of the virus other than vaccination do not exist, the pursuit of the common good may suggest vaccination with a view to protect the most vulnerable, the weakest and the most exposed.

For information concerning the moral implications of receiving vaccinations, see the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's, "Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-Covid-19 Vaccines," the USCCB statement "Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines", and the "Statement from the Bishops of the Catholic Conference of Ohio."

May this New Year bring about hope and healing, particularly through the intercession of Saint Joseph, patron of the Church Universal.

Links to Key Resources

[Document of the Holy See](#)

[Document of the USCCB](#)

[Document of the Ohio Catholic Conference](#)

[Document of the National Catholic Bio-Ethics Center www.NCBC.org](http://www.NCBC.org)