



Interfaith leader's statement urging all Chicagoans to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

As trusted voices in Chicago, faith leaders stand together and say we support COVID-19 vaccination and pledge not to sign religious exemptions for COVID-19 vaccine mandates. We commit to promote the COVID-19 vaccines as they are life-saving and in line with our religious doctrine.

If we are to return back to our normal – full capacity worship services – everyone who is able must be vaccinated. We encourage individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, as it is the best way to end the pandemic. By being vaccinated, you show compassion and offer protection for your family, your friends, your faith family, and neighbors. It is the morally right thing to do.

Fear is real, and we understand that these are uncertain and fearful times however, when faced with times like these, we must hold on to our faith for strength to make the right decisions for you and your family. Getting vaccinated is the right thing to do.

Much of the discourse around religious exemptions is based on misinformation.

The COVID-19 vaccines:

- Do not contain animal products
- Do not involve blood contact
- Do not use fetal cell lines from recent abortions
- Do not make men or women infertile

The COVID-19 vaccines:

- Do prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19
- Have been thoroughly researched and proven to be safe

We respect those who are still struggling with the decision to be vaccinated. Our faith has been tested over the past 18 months. Many held on to our beliefs for the hope of a life beyond this pandemic. We struggled, at times alone, to make it through. And now we have a vaccine to help us reconnect with our faith and with others.

This is an individual choice that must be made. If you are struggling with the decision to get vaccinated, please reach out. We are here to listen. We have ambassadors here to hold your hand, share, and help guide you in your journey.

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