

Below are prayers created by Rabbinical Assembly members Rabbi Karen Reiss Medwed, Rabbi Naomi Levy, Rabbi Robert Scheinberg and Rabbi Naomi Kalish, and Rabbi Andrew Sacks. There is also a prayer by Israeli Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu. We encourage you to use the one, or ones, that you find most personally meaningful.

Rabbi Naomi Levy:

I have been praying for this day and now it is here!
With great excitement, a touch of trepidation
And with deep gratitude
I give thanks
To all the scientists who toiled day and night
So that I might receive this tiny vaccination
That will protect me and all souls around this world.
With the pandemic still raging
I am blessed to do my part to defeat it.
Let this be the beginning of a new day,
A new time of hope, of joy, of freedom
And most of all, of health.
I thank You, God, for blessing me with life
For sustaining my life
And for enabling me to reach this awe-filled moment.
Amen

Rabbi Robert Scheinberg and Rabbi Naomi Kalish:

This prayer contains various elements including an affirmation that one is performing a mitzvah, an expression of gratitude for the wisdom of scientists, a prayer for healing, and the blessing of gratitude traditionally recited each day for the magnificent workings of the human body. Elements are taken from the prayer of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu.

Before the vaccination:

I am ready to fulfill the positive commandment of my Creator to protect the human body, as it is written in the Torah: “You shall be most careful with yourselves.” (Deuteronomy 4:15)
We thank You, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, God of all flesh, creator of healing, who has granted knowledge and wisdom to human beings to discover and develop this vaccine to guard against the plague of disease. May it be Your will that this vaccination protect me [“and my family,” “and my patients,” “and my clients,” “and my students,”] and all those with whom I come in contact. May it save the lives of millions of people across the world.

After the vaccination:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who has created the human body with wisdom, creating cells, tissues and organs - it is known and revealed to You that when they do not function correctly it is not possible to exist and stand before You. Blessed are You, Adonai, healer of all flesh, who does wondrous deeds.

Rabbi Andrew Sacks:

Prayer Recited by those Administering the Vaccine

"I praise the ETERNAL with all my heart in the assembled congregation of the upright" (Psalm 111).

God who answers in times of distress and saves, "Healer of broken hearts who binds their wounds" (Psalm 147), Who shares divine wisdom with flesh and blood and has given us understanding, science and discernment to create this vaccine:

May it be Your will that through the power of this act I will merit healing and saving lives of all the living, and be able to fulfill the teaching, "whoever saves a single life... saves an entire world" (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5) as it is written "I am going to bring her relief and healing" (Jeremiah 33).

Praised are You who brings healing to all flesh and does wonders.

Prayer for People Being Vaccinated:

God who answers in times of distress and saves, "Healer of broken hearts who binds their wounds" (Psalm 147), who shares divine wisdom with flesh and blood and has given us understanding, science and discernment to create this vaccine:

May it be Your will that through the power of this human effort aided by God who graciously grants humans knowledge and teaches mortals understanding, science and discernment that I merit health and resilience so that these verses may be fulfilled for us: "I have removed illness from your midst" "for I the ETERNAL am your healer" (Exodus 23; 15). "Let them praise the ETERNAL for God's steadfast love and wondrous deeds for humanity" (Psalm 107).

Praised are You who brings healing to all flesh and does wonders.