



Show Me the Facts

Religion and the COVID-19 Vaccine

This document contains important facts and information aimed to alleviate common religious concerns surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine.

Religion and faith

What are the common concerns?

"I am Catholic or Evangelical. Receiving the vaccine goes against my faith."

"I am Muslim. Do the vaccines contain animal products or alcohol?"

"I am Jewish. Are the vaccines kosher?"

What are the facts?

- Both the [Vatican](#) and the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) accept and endorse the uses of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines,
- In addition, Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, and Rabbi Moshe Hauer of the Orthodox (Jewish) Union issued a [joint statement](#), sharing that "our congregations and their members are eager to participate in the vaccine program with the strong encouragement of their leaders.
- Both the [American Society of Muslim Jurists](#) and the [British Islamic Medical Association issued statements](#) indicating that both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna were permissible to take.
- Kashruth, the set of Jewish dietary laws, does not apply to vaccinations. However, the COVID-19 vaccines do not contain animal products and therefore are not considered to be treyf (e.g., unkosher).
- Vaccination has been endorsed by groups including the Orthodox rabbinic leaders in Israel, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), the Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America.
- The [Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America recently stated](#) that "the Torah obligation to preserve our lives and the lives of others requires us to vaccinate for COVID-19 as soon as a vaccine becomes available."

Fetal cells

What are the common concerns?

"I am opposed to abortion and the use of fetal cells in research."

"I've heard that the vaccines contain fetal cells."

"Weren't fetal cells and/or tissue used in the development and/or production of the vaccines?"

What are the facts?

- No fetal tissue or cells are contained in any of the vaccines currently available under FDA approval or emergency use authorization in the U.S.
- As discussed in the [statement from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops](#), no fetal cells or tissue were involved in the development or production of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna mRNA vaccines.
- While they played no role in their development or production, HEK-293 cell lines that came from an aborted cell line created over 50 years ago were used in confirmatory testing of the current mRNA vaccines.
- Cells from the HEK-293 line have commonly been used in biologic research since the late 70s. This cell line is used in the [testing of many common medicines](#), including Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Claritin, Benadryl, Pepto-Bismol, Mucinex, Tums and Prilosec, among many others.
- Given the gravity of the pandemic and lack of alternative vaccines, both the [Vatican](#) and the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) have endorsed the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, despite their remote connection to fetal tissues.