



# 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.