



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find more information on the moral considerations concerning COVID-19 vaccinations?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a webpage dedicated to the topic at www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research. The page links to documents from Vatican entities, as well as other reliable resources, including the USCCB's [Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines](#). More resources are also available at: National Catholic Bioethics Center (www.ncbcenter.org)
Charlotte Lozier Institute (www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics)

2. How can I protest the use of vaccines developed, produced, or tested using unethical means?

First make certain to learn exactly what unethical means were used in the development or manufacture of a given vaccine. Then make it known that you protest the use of the vaccine, especially if you are personally not presented with a more ethical alternative.

Ways to register a protest:

- Request that a health care provider obtain and offer ethical vaccine alternatives.
- Contact research, pharmaceutical, and manufacturing entities that utilize unethical vaccine processes or products and request they design and produce more ethical alternatives.
- Encourage similar entities that have developed ethical vaccines to continue on that path until their vaccine is approved for general distribution. Let the entity know that you plan to request their vaccine for your personal use and make others aware of its availability.
- Contact a local media outlet with an email or letter-to-the-editor that highlights the injustice of not being provided a more ethical option among COVID-19 vaccine options.
- Contact your elected officials and urge them to prohibit unethical medical research and manufacturing practices and instead incentivize ethical practices.
- Contact the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee](#) (1-800-741-8138) and request that vaccines be approved that do not depend on abortion.

3. Where can I learn how COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed in Wisconsin?

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has a webpage dedicated to vaccine information, including how vaccines will be distributed in prioritized phases throughout the state as doses become available. Visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm> for more information. The webpage is frequently updated.

4. Where is there information on COVID-19 vaccine safety measures and side effects?

Beside the Wisconsin DHS webpage noted in question 3 above, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#), which approves vaccines for use, and the [U.S. Centers for Disease](#)

[Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) both have numerous resources that detail vaccine safety measures. The latter also has an [online resource](#) regarding what to expect after getting vaccinated, which includes a list of some of the most common side effects for the current approved COVID-19 vaccines.

Please note that current approved vaccines require two vaccination doses with 21 to 28 days between dose administrations. Therefore, information is likely to be updated throughout this process as more individuals receive full vaccination and more data is gathered. Check back regularly on these resources for updated information.

5. Can individuals be compelled to receive a COVID-19 vaccination in Wisconsin?

In limited circumstances, the Wisconsin DHS is empowered under Wisconsin Statutes s. [252.041](#) to compel an individual to receive a vaccination. However, such vaccination cannot be compelled if it “is reasonably likely to lead to serious harm to the individual or unless the individual, for reasons of religion or conscience, refuses to obtain the vaccination.” (See Wisconsin Statutes s. [252.041\(1\)\(a\)](#).)

Wisconsin Statutes s. [252.04](#) details the requirements and exemptions for child immunization. The Wisconsin DHS or Wisconsin Legislature can update state law (statutes or administrative code) regarding what immunizations are required for a child in a school or child care setting. Under Wisconsin Statutes s. [252.04\(3\)](#), an immunization requirement is waived under this provision if an adult student or the student’s parent, guardian, or legal custodian submits a written statement to the school, child care center, or nursery school objecting to the immunization for reasons of health, religion, or personal conviction.

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