

Addressing Questions Regarding Approved COVID-19 Vaccines and Abortion Derived Cell Lines

Vaccines are made using different methods. Regardless of the method of manufacturing, all vaccines undergo rigorous testing before they can be given to the public and they undergo continuous safety evaluation after they are licensed and recommended for the public.

Some older vaccines have used cell lines, including a few vaccines that have used cell lines derived decades ago from aborted fetal tissue. Fetal cell lines are not the same as fetal tissue. Fetal cell lines are cells that grow in a laboratory. They descend from cells taken from elective abortions in the 1970s and 1980s. Those individual cells from the 1970s and 1980s have since multiplied into many new cells over the past four or five decades, creating fetal cell lines. Current fetal cell lines are thousands of generations removed from the original fetal tissue. They do not contain any tissue from a fetus.

COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Available in the United States

Pfizer-BioNTech

No fetal cell lines were used to manufacture the vaccine and they are not inside the injection you receive from a healthcare provider.

Moderna

No fetal cell lines were used to manufacture the vaccine and they are not inside the injection you receive from a healthcare provider.

Janssen

Fetal cell lines are injected with adenovirus to make a viral vector vaccine. The cells were derived from tissue from a 1985 elective abortion in the Netherlands.

This topic can be sensitive and important, especially in communities of faith. We want everyone to be able to make a fully informed decision. If you have any concerns about the use of fetal cell lines in vaccine development and weighing the risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccines, you should speak with your doctor and a trusted faith leader, as needed. Many religious organizations have developed position statements on the use of vaccines where such cell lines may be used in vaccine production. A compilation of these statements can be found at: www.immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines/religious-concerns.asp. A recent statement from the Vatican on the morality of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine can be found at: www.catholicnews.com/vatican-without-alternatives-current-covid-19-vaccines-are-morally-acceptable/.