

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

8 December 2020

Transmitted by email: ...

Mr. ...

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Dear Bahá'í Friend,

The Universal House of Justice has received your email letter of 20 November 2020 seeking guidance on the advisability of taking the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine that is anticipated to be widely available soon. We have been asked to convey the following.

Nothing has been found in the Bahá'í Writings on the subject of vaccination. Nevertheless, in the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, Bahá'u'lláh stated: “Resort ye, in times of sickness, to competent physicians; We have not set aside the use of material means, rather have We confirmed it through this Pen, which God hath made to be the Dawning-place of His shining and glorious Cause.” Moreover, in reply to scientific issues raised on a number of occasions, Shoghi Effendi consistently advised Bahá'ís that such matters would need to be investigated by scientists. In recent decades, advances in medical science have led to the production of effective vaccines, the use of which has freed humanity from many debilitating and deadly infectious diseases. Reports indicate that the coronavirus vaccines currently being developed offer great promise for protecting individuals from, and helping to reduce transmission of, the virus. As to the advisability and efficacy of the various options that may become available, the friends should follow the counsel of medical and other scientific experts.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat