



21 March 2024

To: Executive Committee

Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

By email to



RE: GC Statement on Immunization

We write concerning the [General Conference's statement on immunization](#) that states that the Adventist health message is based on the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy and peer reviewed science. We request that the Executive request to the AUC to request that the GC abandon any such statement.

We have reflected on feedback on our previous submission directly to the GC (cc [redacted]), and understand that it may be more effective to approach this by addressing our local conference executive committee.

The outcome we hope for is the retraction of the GC's immunization statements. We do not mind how this occurs – e.g., whether this is by direct appeal to GC administration (via whatever channel is most appropriate) or by adding it as an item on the agenda of the upcoming GC or whatever else is most appropriate.

The primary reason for rejecting the GC's immunization statement is that peer reviewed science has no place at all in authoritatively determining our mission or message in any area, whether theological or health related. This is a categorical error that we believe must be corrected in order to be consistent with our church's fundamental beliefs.

This primary line of argument rejecting the current statements on immunization has been provided in our previous letter to the GC, attached here. The theological and logical basis for this argument is also fleshed out in a 17 February 2024 [RECORD article](#) by [redacted] on the place of peer reviewed science.

There are also two further, secondary arguments that may be considered as supporting (but not necessary) reasons for rejecting the GC's statements on immunization.

One of these secondary arguments is that we believe there is no need for the Adventist church to make statements on every issue or controversy in the public sphere. In many cases there is wisdom in remaining silent; but danger in succumbing to pressure to signal virtue by signing onto a mainstream secular narrative. Our mission as Adventists

is to sound a peculiar message calling the world out of Babylon, not getting caught up in the ever-changing protests of a world devoid of biblical wisdom and values.

The other important secondary consideration is that vaccination is currently a polarising and divisive issue. According to reputable [Rasmussen Reports](#), a majority of Americans suspect that covid vaccines may have caused a significant number of unexplained deaths. Trust in vaccines generally has plummeted, likely as a result of authoritarian public health policy responses to covid. In this environment, does our global church really consider it desirable to have official statements widely perceived as promoting covid vaccinations? We do not recognise any benefit to the church in taking such a public position.

In fact, we are aware of multiple Adventist members, churches and leaders across [redacted] and internationally who do not think the GC's immunization statement is tenable. We are also aware of many individual Adventists who believe they have suffered personally as a result of the statement. We are further aware of what we believe to be significant groundswell among Adventists worldwide to reject this statement. We understand several churches in our conference and more nationally and internationally have sent letters to the GC similar to ourselves. We would be happy to share further if required; however, we believe you are also sufficiently aware of these voices.

We have been in contact with individual members of the Executive and understand there are at least some members of the Executive who are also interested in addressing this issue. We trust your collective wisdom in optimising the strategy for influencing change. We are open to working with you further in whatever way may be helpful. We would welcome any request that we revise and resubmit this letter to be more aligned with your needs, or that we encourage other local churches to write additional submissions, or for you to take this on yourselves leaving us out of any further correspondence up to the [redacted] etc. We do not mind – whatever facilitates the desired outcome of retraction of what we perceive to be untenable public statements.

Thank you for your leadership of our conference. We wish you all of God's blessings and are keeping you in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Pr [redacted] on behalf of
[redacted] Adventist Church Board

Attachment: Letter sent from [redacted] Church Board to General Conference Leadership in [redacted]