



Newport ~ Mesa ~ Irvine Interfaith Council

2/08/2021

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Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council is joined by several faith leaders within our community in issuing this statement of support for vaccinations against Covid-19. Fighting a pandemic at every level is not only a religious duty but a basic moral duty for all of us because it goes well beyond saving our own life. By breaking the chain of transmission, we save other lives often those from among us who are more vulnerable or those who may not have similar access to healthcare that most of us do. Wearing mask and maintaining social distance is crucial in that effort. But the long-term solution is getting collective immunity so we can be more at ease in social settings whether those are within our loved ones and family or our religious congregations. Vaccination is the most effective way of achieving that collective immunity. Hence it is no surprise that many faith leaders want to lead the way by getting vaccinated themselves and encouraging others to do so as well. Here are some of the voices of the faith leaders in support of vaccination against Covid-19,

Catholic Diocese of Orange *"As the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has said, the vaccines now available and offered (Pfizer and Moderna) and those currently in the testing approval/process (AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson) are morally permissible and can be used in good conscience. We urge Catholics of good will to put at ease others who have reservations about the morality of accepting such a vaccine that the highest doctrinal authority in the Church has given its okay after much study and research"*.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson Cano (Sr. Pastor Irvine United Congregational Church) *"Jesus told us to "do unto others as you would have them do to you" and emphasized that we should "love our neighbors as ourselves." There is no better way for us to see ourselves out of this pandemic than to embrace vaccinations --it not only allows us to love ourselves and keep our own bodies healthy and safe, but the very act of vaccination also helps our neighbor to be safe as we seek to eradicate this virus from our community"*.

Quran (5:32) states that whoever takes a life unjustly it is as if they killed all humanity and whoever saves a life it is as if they saved all of humanity. Muslims who believe Quran is the word of God have a straight road to justify saving lives by getting vaccinated themselves and their loved ones. *The Organization of Islamic Conference and 15th annual conference of the International Fiqh Council both concluded that vaccination is acceptable under Islam. Some muftis (experts in Islamic law) hold that immunization is obligatory (wajib) when the disease risk is high and the vaccine has benefits that far outweigh its risk.*

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints First Presidency Statement *“In word and deed, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has supported vaccinations for generations. As a prominent component of our humanitarian efforts, the Church has funded, distributed and administered life-saving vaccines throughout the world. Vaccinations have helped curb or eliminate devastating communicable diseases, such as polio, diphtheria, tetanus, smallpox and measles. Vaccinations administered by competent medical professionals protect health and preserve life”.*

Rabbi Arnold Rachlis (University Synagogue, Irvine) *“We should be especially careful to protect ourselves and our loved ones – younger and older – and we need to accept the advice of experts in the media and from CDC in regard to social distancing and hygiene. We also need to get vaccinated as soon as possible”.*

We received more statements of support for vaccinations from faith leaders which we are not able to include in this brief communique. These and other statements are available in its entirety on our website nmiinterfaithcouncil.org/Covid-Resources.

Akbar Hussaini

Executive Director – NMI Interfaith Council