



THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE
LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL

Statement on Religious Exemption for Vaccination against COVID-19

The Diocese of Yakima, in accordance with the Vatican and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), recommends that all members of the Catholic community, who are able to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, should do so.

“Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.” – USCCB, Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines

Since the vaccinations for COVID-19 have been found morally acceptable to protect the lives and ensure the health of all in our communities, the Diocese will not provide religious exemptions to receiving a vaccine against COVID-19. Parishes are not to provide religious exemption letters regarding the COVID-19 vaccination.

The following links might be helpful in understanding the morality of receiving the vaccine:

Vatican Statement: <https://tinyurl.com/648dma>

USCCB Statement: <https://tinyurl.com/acwunvs5>

California Bishops Statement: <https://tinyurl.com/rnn37fz2>

Bishop Tyson Statement and Ethical Vaccine Development links: <https://tinyurl.com/4x2kifcj>

Let us continue to pray for all who have died from this terrible illness, for their loved ones who are experiencing the pain of loss, and for all who continue to work diligently to care for the sick and serve all in need during these challenging times.

Given this day, August 18, 2021, at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Yakima

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

[signature electronically applied]

