

Faith Leaders' Guide to COVID-19 Vaccination

A guide to help support the COVID-19 vaccination efforts within your communities.

Build Vaccine Confidence:

Talk about your support for vaccination efforts, and share the facts with your faith community.

1

Educate your community on the ways that vaccination will help end the pandemic.

- Highlight that COVID-19 vaccinations protect not only us as individuals, but also our communities as a whole. Vaccination limits the number of virus transmissions, which saves lives.
- Emphasize the scientific evidence that vaccination is the most effective way in preventing hospitalization and death, and also protects against experiencing long-term side effects from COVID-19 infection.
- Share your vaccination experience and motivations behind getting the vaccine.

2

Equip your staff and community members with the tools and resources focusing on vaccination assistance.

- Acknowledge your community's concerns and skepticism about the vaccines, and share the COVID-19 Hotline number (1-866-207-2880) for answers to questions.
- Invite a content expert on vaccination to help encourage vaccination, among your community using our educational request form: <https://www.health.nd.gov/covid-19-vaccine-information>.

Know Your Role, Know the Facts

As one of the essential members in the efforts to fight against COVID-19, it is important to make your vaccination support known to your faith community, and share the facts about why it is important to get vaccinated. Seeing trusted leaders and community members getting vaccinated goes a long way in improving the confidence levels in vaccination. Witnessing your commitment to the well-being of yourself and your community could be a critical factor in your community's vaccination decision. Offer to provide program insight and partner with local and state public health to assist in modifying approaches to better reach and serve your community.

- Use [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or text your ZIP code to **GETVAX (438829)** to locate and promote the nearest vaccination sites near your community to assist members who face difficulties with technology.

3

Encourage your community to get vaccinated as soon as soon as possible.

- Vaccinations protect individuals as well as communities, and will allow safer gatherings for worship and volunteer service activities.
- Consider co-branding state and local public health communications by adding your logo and highlighting trusted channels of information.

Messages From Faith Leaders to Share

- We can unite in prayer for the increasing knowledge and leadership of public health officials, and the work of vaccination efforts throughout the state, nation, and world.
- Getting vaccinated is an act that goes beyond self-benefit. We should go beyond self and consider the health of the elders and those with high risk of serious disease.
- We can play our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19 through vaccination, and get back to doing the important work of serving the community.

How to Work with Immunization Programs to Provide Your Community with Vaccination in Your House of Worship

- Know what local resources are available— look to pharmacies, health care agencies, or other community-based organizations doing work in your area.
- Reach out to your local public health department for the best contact person in organizing a vaccination clinic in your house of worship to communicate resources available, goals, and time frame for these efforts. To request a vaccination event from the North Dakota Department of Health, go to <https://www.health.nd.gov/covid-19-vaccine-information>.
- Work with your congregation to form an outline of the goals and resources that you would realistically be able to offer. Consider square footage of your space for social distancing measures, availability for parking, separate entrance and exit doors, the availability for equipment such as chairs and tables, and creative options such as outdoor spaces and drive-thru vaccination.
- Check with your insurance to determine if your space would be a viable option for a vaccination location, and if space is not available due to restrictions decide how to support local efforts to get your congregation and surrounding community vaccinated.
 - Provide rides to vaccination sites for those who lack transportation.
 - Host a vaccination registration event providing technology, extra space, and assistance for vaccination registration for those who struggle with technology or lack access.
 - Help spread the word about vaccination clinics available by posting dates and locations on announcement boards and highlighting during announcements.
 - Identify homebound individuals and facilitate a vaccinator for them by providing a list of local public health services.