



Association of
Immunization
Managers

How Can Faith Leaders Help End the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Support the COVID-19 vaccination effort.

Build Vaccine Confidence

Talk about the COVID-19 vaccine within your faith community.

Faith leaders around the world are sharing prevention messages to stop the spread of COVID-19. They can be a voice of hope and wisdom in these challenging times.

1 Help people understand that vaccines will help bring this pandemic to an end.

- Lead from the front! Talk about your plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine for yourself and your family.
- Encourage house of worship staff and community members to serve as role models for their family, friends, and the community by getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Acknowledge your community's concerns and skepticism about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Be the voice of hope and wisdom in your faith community during these challenging times—share accurate scientific information about COVID-19 and safe vaccine development.
- Encourage community members to share their positive vaccination experiences: Why did they decide to get vaccinated? How do they feel about it now?

2 Talk about how:

- Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe.
- The search for an effective COVID-19 vaccine has united the planet's scientific and medical communities in unprecedented ways.
- COVID-19 vaccines can protect us as individuals as well as communities. When large numbers of people are vaccinated in a community, the cycle of human-to-human viral transmission can be interrupted.

How to Support State and Local Immunization Programs' Communications Efforts

- Reinforce state and local health departments' messages through your communications, such as bulletins, social media, newsletters, prayer groups, and phone trees.
- Offer the immunization program insight into how your congregation best receives information. The immunization program's traditional approaches for sharing information might not fit well within your community. Your insight can help them modify their approaches.
- Offer to review state and local health communication messages to make sure they resonate with your community—including any language preferences/translations and insight into local customs and religious holidays.
- Consider co-branding state and local health communication messages by adding your logo and contact information to their messages and materials. Co-branding lets your congregation know that immunization programs are valuable and trusted channels of information to the community.

- COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent hospitalization and death, and also protect us from experiencing the long-term effects of COVID-19.

3 Invite a local trusted physician to your faith community's event.

- Having a content expert on vaccination can help to build vaccination. Tie the message into the faith values that are appropriate to the message.

Messages From Faith Leaders to Share with Your Congregations

- Let's unite in prayer to support our scientific and medical communities' vaccination efforts!
- Getting vaccinated is an act of LOVE, to protect the elders in your community who are especially at risk.
- COVID-19 can be defeated thanks to our joint efforts—so that we may have life and have it in abundance.
- Getting vaccinated can help us all get back to life—including the in-person worship and community volunteer work that we have all missed so much.

Support Vaccine Access

Offer your house of worship as a vaccination site.

Are you interested in making COVID-19 vaccines more accessible to your congregation and entire community? Do you have a large facility with ample open spaces? Consider offering your house of worship as a vaccination site!

Vaccine supply is limited, but depending on where you live, it might be possible to work with your local government to host a vaccine clinic at your place of worship. Immunization programs are responsible for overseeing the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in your area. Immunization programs

are part of state and local health departments, which are structured differently [depending on where you live and worship](#). These different structures can determine the best way for you to get involved.

Other Key Resources:

CDC's [COVID-19 Toolkit for Faith-Based Organizations](#)

Vaccinate Your Family's [COVID-19 Resources](#)

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's [Q&A About COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

The Faith and Community Initiative's [Messages of Hope About COVID-19](#)

The de Beaumont Foundation's [COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Tips](#)

Public Health Structure	Authority	Sample Action Steps
Centralized	The state maintains authority and local units are typically run by state employees.	Connect with your state immunization program .
Decentralized	The local government has authority over most decisions. Employees work for local government and not for the state.	Reach out to your local health department .
Shared or Mixed	Depending on where you live within a state, county, or city, the government is set up differently. It's not consistent across the state.	Ask your state immunization program who is the best contact.

How to Work with Immunization Programs to Support Vaccine Access in Your House of Worship

- 1 Know what to expect. Understand that vaccine supply is very limited—your state or local immunization program may want to work with you but might not have the resources to do so at this time. They may also refer you to a pharmacy, health care agency, or other organization.
- 2 Work with all of your congregation's decisionmakers to agree on your goals and the resources and time you're realistically able to offer. Consider:
 - Your capacity to hold vaccination clinics in your house of worship, such as available square footage, parking, restrooms, a socially distant waiting/line area, a separate entrance and exit, electrical requirements for vaccine storage, supplies and equipment like tables and chairs, hours of operation, staff support and compensation, disability-friendly transportation, and creative options such as outdoor spaces and drive-thru vaccination.
- 3 Reach out to the appropriate contact depending on the structure of your government. Explain who you are, what your goals are, and the resources you have. [Learn about your state's public health structure](#) in the table above.
 - Existing in-person services you offer and if both a vaccine clinic and these essential services can operate safely at the same time.
 - If you have multiple locations, which one will be most accessible to the people who need vaccine the most.
 - Insurance limitations you might have to offering your space.
 - If you decide you cannot host a vaccine clinic, tell community members where vaccines are available.
 - If your congregation is part of a larger organization, coordinate within your organization and have one person reach out on behalf of the group. Since public health is very busy with the COVID-19 response, this will make it easier for them to work with you.