We are living our Catholic faith in the midst of one of the greatest global health crises in recent times. Therefore, the Diocese of Oakland strongly recommends all clergy, employees and volunteers to get COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as possible.

The Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and the California Catholic Conference of Bishops have all approved as morally acceptable the vaccinations now available (Pfizer and Moderna) as well as two likely to become available soon (Johnson & Johnson, Astra Zeneca). This strong recommendation is also consistent with the advisory issued by the State of California’s Department of Public Health.

Pope Francis has received the vaccination.

Beyond protecting their own health and safety, Catholics also have an obligation to protect their family, friends, co-workers and community by vaccinating as soon as feasible. One should consult with their doctor concerning any personal health concerns.

Clergy, parish employees and volunteers with questions regarding this policy should contact Gloria Espinoza in the Department of Human Resources at 510-267-8359 or gespinoza@oakdiocese.org. School employees should first contact their principal.

Vaccinations must be arranged currently through your health care provider or through the county health department in which you reside or work. Several pertinent websites follow:

**Contra Costa County:**
Central Website: [https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine)

Phases of Distribution: [https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/distribution-phases](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/distribution-phases)


**Alameda County:**
Central Website: [https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines](https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines)

Form for vaccination notification: [https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/44974350fffd14f288b03b029f2486ba8](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/44974350fffd14f288b03b029f2486ba8)

January 28, 2021

*To know Christ better and make Him better known*