

I am requesting to be exempt from _____ vaccine mandate. This request is based on the doctrinal mandate to abstain from any medicines which are the product of immoral production, and the religious advisory of the synods, hierarchs, elders, medical workers of the Eastern Orthodox Church against the COVID-19 vaccine.

Below is a compilation of Synodal Statements, Medical Studies, Professional Dissertations, and Hierarchical and Monastic Statements which either forbid totally or recommend against receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine:

1. Bases of the Social Concept of the Russian Orthodox Church [\[1\]](#)

The Social Life Document of the Russian Orthodox Church, which is the largest Orthodox Jurisdiction on Earth, defines the absolute inadmissibility of medicines prepared using fetal therapy.

“The Church believes it to be definitely inadmissible to use the methods of so-called fetal therapy, in which the human fetus on various stages of its development is aborted and used in attempts to treat various diseases and to "rejuvenate" an organism. Denouncing abortion as a cardinal sin, the Church cannot find any justification for it either even if someone may possibly benefit from the destruction of a conceived human life. Contributing inevitably to ever wider spread and commercialization of abortion, this practice (even if its still hypothetical effectiveness could be proved scientifically) presents an example of glaring immorality and is criminal.”

This command is in point XII 7 of the Social Life Document. This document defines, as indicated by the name, appropriate Orthodox Christian living in as many aspects of society as is enumerated. Because of point XII 7, it would be a violation of my faith to receive the following coronavirus vaccines:

- A. Pfizer and BioNTech – The Pfizer Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[3\]](#).
- B. Moderna – The Moderna Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is cited by the vaccine researchers Kizzmekia S. Corbett, Darin K. Edwards, and Sarah R. Leist [\[4\]](#).
- C. Johnson & Johnson – The J&J Vaccine has publicly admitted to using a cell line called PER.C6. This is published on the Janssen website [\[5\]](#). This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#).
- D. Sputnik V – The Sputnik V Vaccine cites their manufacturers as using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293 [\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#).
- E. AstraZeneca – AstraZeneca was developed using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is also contained in documents permitting its emergency use in the United Kingdom [\[8\]](#).
- F. Vaxart – Vaxart was produced with the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[9\]](#).

- G. Altimmune – The Altimmune vaccine was produced and developed with the abortion-derived cell line PER.C6. This information is recorded by Altimmune’s own Clinical Trial Protocol [\[10\]](#). This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#).
- H. COVAXX and United Biomedical – COVAXX was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[11\]](#).
- I. Medicago – The Medicago Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[12\]](#).
- J. Novavax – The Novavax Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at ScienceMag [\[13\]](#).
- K. University of Pittsburgh “PittCoVacc” – PittCoVacc was produced with the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by EBioMedicine at the Lancet [\[14\]](#).
- L. Walter Reed Army Institute – The Walter Reed Vaccine was produced with the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[15\]](#).
- M. Sanofi Pasteur and Translate Bio – The Sanofi Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the vaccine researchers at NPJ Vaccines [\[16\]](#).
- N. Inovio Pharmaceuticals – The Inovio Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at ScienceMag [\[17\]](#).
- O. Arcturus Therapeutics – The Arcturus Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[18\]](#).
- P. Imperial College London – The Imperial College Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[19\]](#).
- Q. Providence Therapeutics – The Providence Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[20\]](#).
- R. CoronaVac – CoronaVac was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at ScienceMag [\[21\]](#).
- S. CanSino Biologics – The CanSino Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at BioSpace [\[22\]](#).
- T. ImmunityBio and NantKwest – The ImmunityBio Vaccine was developed, produced, and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[23\]](#).
- U. Institut Pasteur and Themis and Merck – The Institut Pasteur Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America [\[24\]](#).
- V. Rega Institute, KU Leuven – The Rega Vaccine protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Global Virus Network [\[25\]](#).
 - W. Anhui Zhifei – The Anhui Zhifei Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cell Press Journal [\[26\]](#).
 - X. Clover Biopharmaceuticals – The Clover Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[27\]](#).

The same Social Life Document also states “The transplantation of organs from a living donor can be based only on the voluntary self-sacrifice for the sake of another's life. In this case, the consent to explantation (removal of an organ) becomes a manifestation of love and compassion. However, a potential donor should be fully informed about possible consequences of the explanation of his organ for his health. The explanation that presents an immediate threat to the life of a donor is morally inadmissible.”

This is from the same point, XII 7, and therein it condemns the harvesting of biological material from a subject without their total informed consent. This condemns the usage of any vaccines manufactured utilizing stolen organs, thereby also condemning the CureVac Vaccine because it was protein tested on HeLa cells, which were harvested from an African American mother of five in 1951 without her knowledge or consent. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is accounted by John Hopkin’s Magazine [\[28\]](#).

2. Greek Orthodox Press Release on “The Cloning of Embryonic Cells” [\[29\]](#)

The Greek Orthodox Church, which is the second in order among the non-patriarchal Autocephalous Jurisdictions, declared “Our Church expresses its categorical opposition to conducting experiments on human embryonic cells.” This is found in the 17.8.2000 Press Release on Embryo Cell Cloning. It further declares in the same Press Release that “the effort to improve life can not pass through the destruction of millions of human beings of embryonic age.”

This absolutely condemns the bulk of the already above-mentioned Vaccines which are the product of testing on cells harvested from aborted fetuses. This would make it a contradiction to my Orthodox faith to receive those vaccines even if said vaccines genuinely benefited me.

3. Romanian Orthodox Church Statement on “The Transplant of Organs” [\[30\]](#)

The Romanian Orthodox Church, which is fourth in the order of junior Patriarchates, lists mandatory principles for the moral use of human organs and tissues, and states: “Because the extraction of organs implies the consent of the donor, extraction of tissues from an embryo is inconceivable given the fact that although alive, this one cannot give its consent.”

On this basis, the Romanian Orthodox Church condemns all medical work profiting from the harvesting of cells from a embryo, or, in fact, any medical work profiting from the

harvesting of cells from a non-consenting individual. This statement alone condemns all the above-mentioned vaccines on the basis that they come from either an aborted fetus or a non-consenting individual; in the vast majority of cases, these vaccines are condemned by both qualifications.

Also mentioned in this Statement is the Church's view of death. The Church declares that "From a Christian point of view, death has two acceptances:

Man's moving away from God through sin (death that can be temporary or eternal, according to the seriousness of the sin, repentance or its absence);

The physical death – materialized through the separation of the soul from the body. All Christian effort is to get rid of the eternal death through the dynamic communion with God in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. This fact does not exclude the care for the conditions, moment and way of separating the soul from the body."

I am of the opinion that receiving the vaccines mentioned above would be participating in the sin of abortion, thereby resulting in my spiritual death. While neither death is desirable, the Church has since antiquity declared that spiritual death is magnitudes less desirable than physical death because spiritual death results in the eternal suffering of our souls, as is declared in Revelation 21:8 – "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." And again in Revelation 20:14 – "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

4. Inter-Church declaration by Archbishop Makarios [\[31\]](#)

Archbishop Makarios is a hierarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the First Throned Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church. He worked with other religious officials of other churches to compose an InterChurch statement condemning the AstraZeneca Vaccine on the basis that it was developed using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. On this basis, most of the above-mentioned vaccines are condemned because of their usage of HEK-293 in the development or testing of their vaccines.

5. Georgian Orthodox Synod On The Necessity Of Vaccination Being A Free Choice And Not Compulsory [\[33\]](#)

The Georgian Orthodox Church, which is the second in the order of Junior Patriarchates, made a Synodal Statement concerning the vaccine. In the Synodal Statement, they declare "We welcome the fact that the Covid-Pandemic vaccination process has been declared voluntary and not mandatory; This is especially important today, when the vaccine is newly developed and health professionals in different countries have different opinions about it."

The Georgian Church acknowledges that the different opinions are valid enough to be such a concern that the vaccines should not be compulsory and notes that this is "especially important." I also believe that this is especially important, and I believe this would be a contradiction of my Orthodox faith and thereby should not be mandatory.

6. Metropolitan Saba of Khoni Against The COVID Vaccine [\[34\]](#)

As a Bishop of the Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Saba is one of the highest authorities concerning Orthodox Christian living. He has voiced extreme opposition to the vaccine.

He states “today's virus, it is a means in the hands of the devil, to bring people under its influence,” and “there will come a time when a vaccine will be offered to humanity, to humans, which will serve not so much the virus, but the enslavement of humans, the management of humans, the subjugation of humans, and it will become one of the most important tools in the hands of the devil.”

He speaks of the danger of the vaccine, saying that it is a method of controlling the population, much less so than it will be for the management of any virus. As one who is charged with taking care of the Orthodox Christian flock, I take note of his warnings against the vaccine and acknowledge it alongside the warnings of many other Bishops, Elders, and Synods. I cannot, in good conscience, receive the vaccine as I see it as a threat to me, both spiritually and physically. My faith already forbids the COVID Vaccine.

7. Elder Efthymios Against the Vaccine [\[41\]](#)

Elder Efthymios is another Athonite monk who speaks about the suspicious nature of the vaccine. He firstly says “Those who do not want to be vaccinated, no one should and does not have the right to force them to be vaccinated in any way.” He goes on to say that the vaccine was made obligatory in some areas before it was ever even manufactured. “There is a cure,” he says, “but some do not want it.” The cure he speaks about is the Body and Blood of Christ. This is a greater vaccine than anything created by mankind. “The vaccine is not a cure,” he notes as being confirmed by Nobel Prize winning French Scientist Luc Antoine Montagnier. Elder Efthymios speculates that if the vaccine were genuinely and helpful, it would not need all this propaganda. Therefore there is reasonable suspicion of the vaccine, and it is within all appropriate logic to avoid it.

8. Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira Against the Vaccine [\[42\]](#)[\[43\]](#)

Metropolitan Seraphim is bishop of the Church of Cyprus, the first in the order of non-patriarchal Autocephalous Jurisdictions in the Orthodox Church. He has condemned the vaccines harshly for being the products of aborted fetal cells. Citing information from Italy, he notes that “the vaccine is made from aborted fetuses,” saying that it is impossible for the Orthodox to accept such a thing even if it is in the best economic interests of the people, because what matters more than the economy is proper enforcement of morality.

I cannot accept a vaccine which results from the murder of babies, and therefore am requesting an exemption to the vaccine so that I do not participate in this grave sin.

9. Father Alexander Demonstrates the Moral Peril of the COVID Vaccine [\[44\]](#)

Father Alexander is a highly respected academic, author, and speaker. He served as an Orthodox Chaplain in the United States Army for over 24 years, achieving the rank of Colonel. He also served as a Dean and Professor of Moral Theology Emeritus at Holy

Trinity Seminary. In light of his impressive resume, he would unquestionably support an exemption for Orthodox Christian receiving the COVID Vaccine. He says “We must reject, on moral grounds, all COVID-19 vaccines that have *any* connection to aborted preborn baby cells.” This condemns practically every available COVID Vaccine, and surely you cannot suppose that one violate their own moral codes for the sake of a negligibly beneficial vaccine? “According to traditional Orthodox moral theology (as opposed to revisionist variations so common today), certain actions (“means” to “ends”) are objectively, intrinsically evil under any “circumstances”—most notably, abortion, rape, incest, child abuse, physical torture, and deliberate targeting of non-combatants in war.” Fr Alexander knows the price that must be paid for anyone who participates in this grave evils, even if that evil is FDA Approved.

Here are my sources for why it is a violation of my Orthodox Faith to receive at this time a COVID Vaccine:

- 1: Bases of the Social Concept of the Russian Orthodox Church - http://orthodoxkansas.org/Bases_of_Social_Concept.html
- 2: The Lozier Institute Lists a number of COVID-19 Vaccines which utilize aborted fetal cells - <https://lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/>
- 3: The Pfizer Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.280818v1.full>
- 4: The Moderna Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2622-0>
- 5: The Johnson & Johnson Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.janssen.com/emea/emea/janssen-vaccine-technologies>
- 6: Sputnik V Vaccine citing trial tests of their manufacturers = <https://sputnikvaccine.com/about-vaccine/human-adenoviral-vaccines/>
- 7: Sputnik V manufacturers acknowledge usage of aborted fetal cells - <http://actanaturae.ru/2075-8251/article/view/10302/106>
- 8: The UK Government acknowledges AstraZeneca’s usage of aborted fetal cells - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca/information-for-healthcare-professionals-on-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-regulation-174>
- 9: The Vaxxart Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.04.283853v1.full>
10. The Altimmune Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - https://clinicaltrials.gov/ProvidedDocs/67/NCT03232567/Prot_000.pdf
11. The COVAXX Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.30.399154v1.full>
12. The Medicago Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.04.20226282v1.full-text>
13. The Novavax Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6520/1089>
14. PittCoVacc utilized aborted fetal cells - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964\(20\)30118-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964(20)30118-3/fulltext)
15. The Walter Reed Vaccine utilized fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.04.28.441763v1.full>
16. The Sanofi Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41541-021-00324-5>

17. The Inovio Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16505-0>
18. The Arcturus Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells – <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.03.280446v1>
19. The Imperial College Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.22.055608v1>
20. The Providence Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.11.443286v1>
21. CoronaVac utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/suppl/2020/05/05/science.abc1932.DC1>
22. The CanSino Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/suppl/2020/05/05/science.abc1932.DC1>
23. The ImmunityBio Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells – <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.29.227595v1.full>
24. The Institut Pasteur Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/117/51/32657.full.pdf>
25. The Rega Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-3035-9>
26. The Anhui Zhifei Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - [https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(20\)30812-6](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(20)30812-6)
27. The Clover Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.24.311027v1.full>
28. The HeLa Cells were harvested without informed consent – <https://pages.jh.edu/jhumag/0400web/01.html>
29. Greek Orthodox Press Release on “The Cloning of Embryonic Cells” - https://www.bioethics.org.gr/03_c.html
30. Romanian Orthodox Church Statement on “The Transplant of Organs” - <http://patriarhia.ro/transplant-of-organs-6021-en.html>
31. InterChurch Declaration by Archbishop Makarios - https://neoskosmos.com/en/173771/australias-greek-orthodox-anglican-and-catholic-archbishops-united-against-oxford-universitys-vaccine/?fbclid=IwAR3_IpvUkBkIHs0iEm3R1-ppMpFX_rL12zU_0lxb8E_71E6bHa7gbKmbppM
33. Georgian Orthodox Synod On The Necessity Of Vaccination Being A Free Choice And Not Compulsory - <https://patriarchate.ge/news/2718>
34. Metropolitan Saba of Khoni Against The COVID Vaccine - <https://tabula.ge/ge/news/645649-mitropoliti-saba-virusis-vaktsina-iaraghi-ikneba>
41. Elder Efthymios Against the Vaccine - <https://www.ekklisiaonline.gr/nea/gerontas-efthymios-o-yPOCHREOTIKOS-EMVOLIASMOS/>
42. Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira Against the Vaccine - <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/1079881/koronoios-mitropolitis-kuthiron-gia-to-emvolio-paraskeuazetai-apo-emvrua-ektroseon-min-to-dehteite/>
43. Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira Against the Vaccine [Video] - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6ln-YMvG34>
44. Father Alexander Demonstrates the Moral Peril of the COVID Vaccine - <http://www.monomakhos.com/on-covid-vaccines-and-the-church/>

All of the above is a confirmation that it is not only my right to not be subject to the COVID Vaccine, but my duty as an Orthodox Christian. It is contradictory to the Orthodox faith no matter how you look at it. It cannot be justified and may even lead to my eternal spiritual disaster. It is for these reasons that I am requesting, through the appropriate channels, an exemption to the mandate to receive the COVID Vaccine.

[NAME]