



Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Office of Diversity & Equity, Spirituality Initiative
310 Harbor Boulevard, Building E
Belmont, CA 94002
Email: ODE@smcgov.org
<https://www.smchealth.org/spirituality-initiative>

Faith Leaders in Support of Vaccination

As faith-leaders, we hold life sacred. We are created not just to survive but to live fully and to thrive – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have been experiencing suffering and loss among our congregants, our community members, and our own family members.

We have lost the ability to worship together, to celebrate loved ones' milestones, to grieve the passing of our sisters and brothers, to break bread, to work at our jobs and produce income, and to bring healing touch and presence when needed.

Because of the ravages of COVID-19, we will be forever changed.

As faith leaders, we are uplifted by the fact that we now have vaccines that can provide an end to this loss and suffering. We are not doctors, researchers nor public health officials, but we have been listening carefully to trustworthy sources and what is being said about the vaccine. We feel confident in what they say.

We know there is a lot of misinformation being circulated in our communities about the vaccine. However, we believe that the vaccine is safe, necessary to save lives and the path to end the pandemic. Millions of people around the world have safely received the vaccination.

As faith-leaders, we feel a responsibility to lead our communities. We encourage each of you to consult with your health providers and to receive the vaccination as soon as it is available to you. We also feel committed to continuing to encourage safety precautions by wearing a face covering, maintaining 6-foot social distancing, avoiding gatherings, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, , washing hands, and getting tested as needed. If you need assistance in obtaining a vaccination when you are eligible, contact your faith community. We understand that some faith groups may not get the vaccine due to religious belief. Together, either by vaccination or encouraging safety precautions, we are committed to those we serve and their wellness.

We sign this letter as a show of support for the vaccine, and efforts to bring health and well-being to our communities.

