



PCEC Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination

The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) stands in compassionate solidarity with the Filipino people and with our neighbors all over the world, who are struggling in various ways because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges we are facing as members of the Evangelical community and as part of the human family are indeed daunting. With the recent surge in COVID-19 infections in our country, we are again reminded of the enormity of the crisis. Nonetheless, as a people of faith, we do not lose hope, for our hope rests on our all-powerful and merciful God, whose kingdom is being established through Jesus Christ our Lord (Mk. 1:15; Col. 1:13-14), even in this time of great difficulty.

In this fight against COVID-19, the global community has recognized the importance for members of different sectors to work together and cooperate with one another. Health and medical authorities worldwide headed by the World Health Organization (WHO), and in our country by the Department of Health (DOH), strongly endorse COVID-19 vaccination, which they have proven to be a safe and effective way of managing the pandemic. For vaccination will prevent people from getting seriously sick when infected with the virus. It can, moreover, reduce mortality rates, and help in ultimately stopping the pandemic. We at PCEC, therefore, strongly support the vaccination of *eligible* and *willing* members of our society against COVID-19.

For this reason, we are very much concerned with the misinformation about the vaccines that have been spreading especially thru social media. Biblical themes related to the end times are even misused to incite fear and panic among unsuspecting Christian believers. In view of the difficulties people are already facing in this pandemic, we enjoin our Evangelical constituents not to pay any attention to, or circulate, unfounded ideas that can only add to people's burdens. We are thus calling upon our fellow-believers to consult only reliable sources and authorities, so we can address effectively the spread of irresponsible and potentially harmful claims.

While vaccination is certainly vital in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, PCEC also deems it imperative that adequate attention be given to its prevention and treatment. Specifically, the drug *Ivermectin* has been said to show promise, so



that it has been receiving international and local support as a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19. However, aside from the two hospitals that were granted just this month of April by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) a Compassionate Special Permit (CSP) for the limited use of Ivermectin, the drug has remained off-limits to the public. Considering the slow vaccine rollout in our country and the increasing number of infections, PCEC thus call on our medical and health authorities to very soon allow the public use of Ivermectin, which many health experts believe can help save people's lives.

Finally, PCEC calls on the Evangelical community and all men and women of faith to join hands in imploring God for his divine and mighty intervention in this time of great crisis. May we all recognize that without God, we cannot win this battle. Let these words of the prophet Zephaniah be of comfort to us all:

“The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
Zeph. 3:17

FOR THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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