



Archdiocese of Vancouver  
PERMANENT DIACONATE OFFICE

JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

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St. Pius of Pietrelcina  
September 23, 2021

Dear Deacons:

On August 18, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in speaking about COVID-19 vaccinations said, “Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people.” He went on to say that “vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable.”

As Catholics we are invited to be vaccinated, both in keeping with the dictates of our conscience and in contributing to the common good by promoting the health and safety of others. All COVID-19 vaccines that are medically approved by the relevant health authorities may be licitly received by Catholics.

As you know, diaconal ministry is a ministry of service, not only to God but to the people of God. **Therefore, for the protection of all the faithful, and our priests, the Archbishop has directed that any deacon not fully vaccinated may not exercise any diaconal ministry until receiving two doses of an approved vaccine by Health Canada.** If this temporary policy affects you, you are asked to contact me immediately.

In order to receive notice about when to book an appointment for the vaccine, even the second dose, it is important that you register with the BC government. You can do so by following this link: [www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](http://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca). For more about vaccines from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, please visit [rcav.org/coronavirus](http://rcav.org/coronavirus).

Thank you for your understanding of the need to protect all those we serve and serve with.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Gregory Smith  
Director, Permanent Diaconate Program