



The Coalition of
Spirit-filled Churches
For Pastoral Care in Specialized Settings

Pentecostal

Renewal

Charismatic

July 15, 2021

Dear Klon, Jack, Ken, and the rest of the NCMAC Executive Committee,

Thank you for your letter of July 15, 2021. You raise good questions and concerns.

The issue/controversy of vaccinations is a tough and very personal one.

My first observation is that this whole scenario has been HIGHLY politicized. That is very unfortunate for a multitude of reasons, not the least being the health, welfare, and readiness of USA service-members. The rule-of-thumb is that one follows the science. I do not see the politicization and bitter rancor associated with the Smallpox and Polio and other mandated vaccines. I WONDER why that is?

My second observation is that a would-be service-member would not be allowed in and, once admitted to the service, would not be allowed to refuse any vaccination deemed FDA-approved AND appropriate for them. Among the expectations of service-members are that they are there to take legal orders and medically prepare for deployments worldwide. Period. Refuse a vaccine and be chaptered out. It might be good to remind service-members -- before they swear-in -- that their "rights" are about to be abridged because of the nature of military service. Similarly, that reminder ought to be brought to their awareness during their mandatory annual briefings on various topics.

However, these various brands of COVID vaccines are different. While they are FDA-authorized for use in this pandemic, they are not yet officially approved. I suppose that they are still considered "experimental," but are thought to be safe and mostly effective.

My third observation is that there are folks with genetic diseases who have been able to function in the services without limitations, just as they are. Nevertheless, they are very cautious about unnecessary exposures to unknown substances and potentially toxic environments. They are fearful that an inoculation or exposure to a novel substance might trigger/activate that genetic condition with disastrous effects. I see that as a legitimate concern. Neither the medical arts nor the individual know what they do not know or has not been tested.

I am also aware that there are service-members with sincerely-held beliefs that they should trust God with their bodies and avoid the introduction of foreign substances. And while I honor that (and have at least one chaplain reporting that belief), I cannot help but think that when one surrenders one's rights to become a service-member, that surrender might also encompass what one eats, drinks, or otherwise takes into their body when deployed or preparing for deployment.

I am not aware of widespread policies on this topic by the churches my group represents. Nevertheless, I offer this opinion as a military veteran and an endorser who himself has developed COVID twice, one before vaccination (March 2020) and once after completing the two-shot Pfizer vaccination in April 2021. The second time, I suspect, the vaccination helped minimize the impact of the virus on me. I am glad that I had the vaccinations.

Respectfully,



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Endorsing Executive

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