



Fetal cell lines are different from fetal cells and fetal tissue. Fetal cells and fetal tissue come directly from a fetus. Fetal cell lines are grown in a laboratory from cells that originally came from fetuses. **None of the COVID-19 vaccines available for use in the United States contain fetal cells or fetal tissue.**

Fetal cell lines are used to develop and/or produce some vaccines for several reasons:

1. Viruses need cells to grow. The viruses that infect humans usually grow better in cells from humans than from animals.
2. Fetal cell lines can be used longer than other cell types.
3. Fetal cells lines can be maintained at low temperatures, which allows scientists to continue using cell lines from decades ago.

Fetal cell lines were used in various stages of development, testing, and/or production of some of the COVID-19 vaccines that are used in the US.

- **Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines:** A fetal cell line was used for laboratory testing before these vaccines were tested on people.
- **Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine:** A fetal cell line was used to develop, produce, and test the vaccine.
- **Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine:** Fetal cell lines were not used to develop, produce, or test the vaccine.

The fetal cell lines used for the COVID-19 vaccines originally came from cells taken from 2 fetuses that were aborted in 1973 and 1985. The two abortions were not done for the purpose of making vaccines. And no further abortions or other sources of fetal cells were used for this purpose.

The [Catholic Church](#) has reviewed the use of fetal cell lines and stated that “it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.”

The [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#), a pro-life policy organization, has found the Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax vaccines to be ethically uncontroversial.

If this issue is of concern to you, we encourage you to talk to your faith leader or someone experienced in bioethics. They can help you to make an informed decision about getting vaccinated.