

# Statement from Elders on Vaccine Clinic

Through the pandemic, Northview has been looking for ways to help our community as we live out our core values to love the world. We were recently asked by Fraser Health if we could host a clinic for our community and agreed to assist to make this available for anybody who is interested and needs their first vaccination shot. Fraser Health is working with other community and faith groups in Abbotsford. This is not the first time we've participated in community-based initiatives. We regularly support Food Bank drives, The Pantry (our community kitchen at the Mission campus), and the Cyrus Centre (youth homelessness) among others. We also host other community events such as public high school graduations and funerals. Earlier in the pandemic, we were in discussions with Fraser Health about making our facility available to house homeless people who were at risk of or had COVID-19. These are ways we seek to live on mission and express our core value of loving the world.

In addition to COVID being devastating to Canada and the world it has also become a controversial, divisive, and political issue. Northview's leadership regularly receives feedback telling us we are doing too much and other emails that tell us we're doing too little. All this from important members of our body whom we love and value. Our elders have needed to prayerfully weigh all this input throughout the pandemic and aim to chart the prudent course and find the right balance. We have followed the Provincial Health Officer and Fraser Health guidelines to inform our response to COVID-19, pushing back where it made sense with some success.

There are, of course, many opinions on vaccination in general and the COVID-19 vaccines in particular. Northview's intent is not to be political, nor are we aiming to create division. We have offered our help with a community health initiative that is seeking to end the COVID-19 pandemic. In making our decision we chose to continue being consistent with our path of supporting our governing authorities on this initiative, making it a completely optional event in case our congregants wanted to participate.

We recognize that there are many sources of data and opinions on the COVID vaccine. For a measured discussion on this topic, a podcast that we have found helpful was put together by our sister church, North Langley Community Church. The link is here:

<https://www.nlcc.ca/podcasts/after-sunday/2021-05-04-a-conversation-about-vaccinations>.

Another good discussion about Christian unity while having different views on disputable matters is from our partners at Apologetics Canada:

<https://apologeticscanada.com/2021/06/04/immunized-discussing-covid-disunity/>

Regardless of our differing opinions on vaccines, the pandemic in general, and many other issues, we are all part of the body of Christ who call Northview home. Our responses to COVID 19, including vaccinations, are not ones of salvation but are instead issues to wrestle through with a loving and charitable posture towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. We respect each other's different opinions as we are called to as the Church.