



# Caring for Our People

*Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata*

*February 2021*

*As-salāmu ‘alaykum. Peace be with you.*

## **Actually, in church, COVID-19 safety is not all about vaccines**

Last year I fielded a question about an Auckland presbyter heading south to meet with a potential new parish. The two parties were on different Alert Levels, therefore how should they manage the face to face meetings?

And now with vaccines looming in our near future, the new questions are the same but with a vaccine focus!

*‘Can a parish require an incoming minister to have a vaccination?’*

These questions are not quite right. Here is what everybody should be asking each other...

***‘How are you going to keep me/us safe?’***

How are we going to keep each other COVID-19 safe? How are we going to keep the community COVID-19 safe?

Not everybody is going to be able to be vaccinated. How are we going to keep our vulnerable people COVID-19 safe? How are we going to keep people safe from vaccination stigma?

Vaccines will be the key long-term tool but we will always have a range of tools at our disposal, and those tools are mighty. Last year they helped reduce flu cases by 99.8%, which translates to an extra 1500 people surviving the year. Figures not to be sneezed at!



If enough of us are vaccinated then we can protect our whole community, even those who can't be vaccinated. That's community immunity.



@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz

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Currently, when it comes to vaccines, the Connexional Office offers the following guidance.

1. Talk to each other about how you will keep each other safe
2. Be kind
3. Please seek assistance if you think vaccines will become an employment issue.

<b>E toru ngā mea</b>	<i>There are three things</i>
<b>Ngā mea nunui</b>	<i>Very important things</i>
<b>E kī ana</b>	<i>As stated in</i>
<b>Te Paipera</b>	<i>The Bible</i>
<b>Tūmanako</b>	<i>Hope</i>
<b>Whakapono</b>	<i>Faith</i>
<b>Ko te mea nui</b>	<i>And the greatest thing</i>
<b>Ko te aroha</b>	<i>Is Love.</i>

