

# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



September 8, 2020

John Shiver, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President, Vaccine Research & Development  
Sanofi Pasteur  
Box 187 Discovery Drive  
Swiftwater, PA 18370

***Re: Appreciation for Discontinuing Use of MRC-5***

Dear Dr. Shiver:

Thank you and your colleagues at Sanofi Pasteur for discontinuing use of MRC-5, a cell line originating from induced abortions, in your polio combination vaccines, Pentacel and Quadracel. We are grateful for your similar decisions about your stand-alone polio vaccines – to discontinue Poliovax, which was also produced using MRC-5, and to retain IPOL, which uses ethically derived cell lines. We are sharing this good news with Florida's Catholics, as well as the Catholic health ministries active in Florida.

As you are probably aware, ethical concerns with vaccines or medicines produced from cell lines linked to elective abortion have prompted many people to refuse them, and to use those derived from other sources. Your decision to move away from use of MRC-5 in your polio vaccines will most certainly alleviate those concerns. We trust this decision will prove beneficial on many levels. May it encourage others to follow suit.

Again, we commend and thank you for your efforts and look forward to sharing this good news with Florida's Catholic community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Knipmann". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ken Knipmann, M. Ed.  
Associate for Health

cc: Most Rev. Enrique Delgado, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami and FCCB Health Moderator  
Michael Sheedy, Executive Director