

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

July 17, 2019

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearly loved Friends,

In response to the many queries we have been receiving regarding the subject of vaccinations and the familiar process of immunization to infectious disease, we wish to share with you a few brief comments.

We are all aware of the heated controversy currently surrounding this subject. While we sympathize with the friends' natural desire for authoritative guidance on how to respond to it, the Faith's institutions are not equipped to make pronouncements on such matters. What we can do is refer you to the attached supplementary document, which provides a compilation of relevant passages from the letters of the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, and the Universal House of Justice that should be helpful in guiding your thinking. We wish to note that the guidance emphasizes the importance of seeking advice from a trusted physician. We further note that compliance with any state or municipal laws regarding vaccination is also emphasized.

We hope that the friends will study the attached guidance with care and will recognize that, at present, a range of opinions on this subject is possible. We trust that the friends will rise to principle in this as in all regards and will not allow this matter to become a cause of contention and disunity within our community.

Our confidence is high that, fortified by the guidance supplied in the attached compilation, the friends' understanding of this subject will be advanced and any confusion or disagreement that may have arisen about it will be easily erased.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

Attachment