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Greek gov’t calls for Church’s contribution to persuade people to get Covid-19 vaccination



The Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, on Tuesday received Greece’s deputy interior minister, Stelios Petsas, with the latter briefing the Primate of the Church of Greece over the course of a Covid-19 vaccination program in the country.

According to reports, the minister again requested the Church’s contribution in achieving the goals set by the government for the vaccination program. A later press release by the relevant ministry, in fact, noted that the Church has the ability to speak directly to the hearts of the faithful, thus persuading them to get vaccinated, and to “… use the most potent weapon they have against the pandemic”.

Less than a week ago, His Beatitude had discussed the same issue with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the latter’s office.

In a related development, the Metropolitan of Kassandria, His Eminence Nikodimos, this week received the deputy minister for Macedonia-Thrace, Stavros Kalafatis, at the Holy Metropolis’ Bishopric, with talks also focusing on the vaccination program in the country.

In a later statement, the Greek minister said he requested the Metropolitan’s

assistance in persuading the faithful in his Metropolis to get vaccinated.

Kalafatis stated that “… we must join our voices so that over the next two-month period … we can persuade a citizen who may have second thoughts or possibly concerns, to get the vaccination, so that when fall begins, we will have reached 75 percent immunity for the general population.”

Speaking during a television appearance on Wednesday, moreover, the Metropolitan of Kifissia, Maroussi and Oropos, His Eminence Kirillos, said the issue of vaccination is not connected with theology and does not involve faith.