

Church, Greek state now cooperate to persuade people to get vaccinated



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Friday cited an article of Greece's constitution in stressing that the state requires of citizens to fulfill their duty in term so social and national solidarity, in again referring to the need for people to get vaccinated for the Covid-19 virus.

He spoke during a meeting with the country's president of the republic, Katerina Sakellariopoulou.

Meanwhile, a day earlier, the government announced incentives for physicians and pharmacists in Greece who register people for the vaccination.

Speaking during a television appearance on Friday morning, relevant Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias also noted that the Church of Greece stands next to the state in this effort, a sincere and courageous stance, as he said, in favor of vaccinations.

Earlier in the week, the Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, again reiterated that the Church of Greece views vaccinations as a means of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, calling on the faithful to opt for the

vaccination out of their own free volition.

The permanent Holy Synod of the Church of Greece this week, as it had previously announced, issued an encyclical regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and its treatment, entitled “Christians Ask Us About the Vaccine and Physicians Answer”. The encyclical will be read out at all Holy Dioceses on Sunday in front of the congregants, while leaflets featuring the 12 questions and answers will be distributed.

In the encyclical, members of the Holy Synod emphasize the necessity of medical science, as the Lord himself declared “...when the body is sick, there is a need for the help of physicians”.

The Holy Synod also underlined that even today, the Church trusts the scientific community of physicians, who struggle day and night for the liberation of people from the deadly pandemic.