



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF DALLAS

The Right Reverend James M. Stanton, D. Min., D.D., Bishop
The Right Reverend Paul E. Lambert, M. Div., Bishop Suffragan

April 30, 2009

To the Clergy of the Diocese of Dallas

My grandmother used to say, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", which I am certain was not her own but nevertheless appropriate given the circumstances surrounding the Swine Flu alerts we have been hearing about through the various media outlets the past several days. To that end, and in consultation with Bishop Stanton, I am sending along this attachment with "Suggested Protocols" for use during your services for the next few weeks.

No doubt many of you have already put certain procedures into place in which case this directive comes as an affirmation for what you have already achieved. However, for those who have not given thought to the seriousness of the outbreak, we would strongly suggest you take precautions to ensure the well being of your congregation.

Our office will continue to forward updates as we get them. Be assured of our prayers for you and the congregation committed to your care. If we can be of any assistance during the course of this alert, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

May God bless and keep you and may the light of his countenance shine upon you always.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 832)

Suggested Protocols regarding the use and storage
of the common cup and other interventions pertaining to the
reduction of risk of transmission of contagion

Regarding the Chalice and Paten

- 1) All Lay Eucharistic Ministers and clergy shall wash their hands thoroughly with a hand sanitizer (anti-microbial rinse) immediately before commencing administration of the sacrament. This can be accomplished discretely at the side of the sanctuary during the use of the Lavabo.
- 2) Chalice and Patens shall be cleaned properly with soap and hot water and stored in sealed containers between use.
- 3) Purificators should be washed in hot water and stored in sealed containers.
- 4) Purificators should be replaced frequently during the administration of the Chalice.
- 5) If a parish has more than one chalice, the chalice could be replaced half-way through communion (thereby reducing the number of communicants who share the one chalice)
- 6) Lay Eucharistic Ministers shall exercise diligence when wiping the chalice to ensure effective cleansing.
- 7) Intinction should be administered by the Priest/Deacon or Lay Eucharistic Minister only and not by the communicants themselves.

Regarding the Passing of the Peace and Other Protocols

- 1) The passing of the Peace should be limited to the bowing of the head to one another or other forms of acknowledgement not involving the physical contact of any kind.
- 2) Anti-microbial rinse of any kind should be provided in the Narthex and other locations (particularly Church School rooms and Nurseries) for use before and after services.
- 3) Members of the congregation who do not feel well should be encouraged to stay home until they are well again.
- 4) All kitchen and restroom facilities in a parish facility should be thoroughly sanitized before and after services as is practically possible.
- 5) WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER EACH SERVICE particularly after shaking hands!!!!!!