



ARCHEVÊCHÉ
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
ARCHIDIOCÈSE DE SAINT-BONIFACE ARCHDIOCESE

BUREAU DE L'ARCHEVÊQUE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONGOING COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE H1N1 FLU VIRUS

TO: All parishes, clergy, religious and schools of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface

DATE: January 20, 2010

I would like to provide a further update regarding our H1N1 response. In my communication of September 30, 2009, I outlined a series of temporary measures that were to be implemented in different phases according to direction from the Archdiocese.

In recent weeks, we have seen the number of cases of H1N1 decrease significantly. While we are relieved that the virus appears to have peaked, we must remain vigilant in maintaining good hygiene practices, especially during the winter months and traditional flu season. All Canadians have been provided the opportunity to receive vaccination against the H1N1 virus, in addition to the traditional flu shot offered at this time of year.

I would encourage parishes to continue the following pro-active measures:

- Provide hand cleaning stations near church entrances.
- Ask all those distributing communion to wash their hands before mass. You may wish to provide an alcohol-based sanitizer so that all ministers may sanitize their hands before and after distributing communion.
- Kindly remind your parishioners that if they are feeling sick or ill, it is best for them to stay home.

In terms of our liturgical practices, effective Friday, January 22, 2010, I am removing all the temporary restrictions of Stage I of our Pandemic Preparation / Liturgical Protocol. Therefore, we will return to our normal liturgical practice of sharing peace with a handshake. Also, parish holy water fonts may once again be filled.

As in the past and to ensure consistency in our churches, please communicate these changes to all the faithful. To our family of faith, I extend my gratitude for your patience over the last number of months.

+ Albert LeGatt

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Archbishop of Saint Boniface