

## **Pandemic Alert Update: May 21, 2009**

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### **Public Health Canada relaxes travel recommendations.**

As of May 21st, the World Health Organization reports that Canada has confirmed **719** cases of the H1N1 Influenza Virus with one reported death related to underlying complications.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Public Health Agency of Canada indicated that as the risk of contracting the H1N1 virus has decreased and that as almost all confirmed cases of H1N1 Influenza infection are reported as mild, the recommendation against travel to Mexico has been lifted.

On May 20th Ontario's Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health reports there are **272** confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus (human swine flu). Most cases are considered mild in nature. The Ontario cases breakdown by health unit as follows:

Toronto-37, York Region-38, Peel Region- 41, Halton Region- 34, Durham Region-10, Ottawa-13, Windsor-Essex-5, Sudbury and District-3, Simcoe-Muskoka District-4, Hamilton-3, Middlesex-London-1, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties-1, Waterloo Region-3, Oxford County-1, Wellington Dufferin Guelph-2, Leeds Grenville & Lanark-1, out of province -2.

### **Clergy are reminded that as of April 30<sup>th</sup> the practice of intinction is prohibited.**

Please reference the Influenza Pandemic Response Plan, Appendix D, Liturgical Conduct, page 17 for information regarding hygienic protocols.

**The pastoral reality of this ongoing pandemic event** increasingly now rests within the growing awareness that as the H1N1 virus continues to spread, so does the accompanying anxiety, stress and worry related to this urgent health concern.

For every single case of H1N1 there can be numerous worried family members, friends and co-workers. Parish clergy, parish nurses, lay pastoral visitors, lay anointers and all Anglicans involved in ministry can provide valuable and vital pastoral care to those who, while not ill with the H1N1 virus, may have a loved one who is.

Finally, as the Diocese prepares to meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> for its Residential Synod, all Synod delegates are encouraged to adhere to those public health practices as outlined in earlier Pandemic Updates and that if one is feeling ill or flu-ish, to check with a family physician before attending Synod.

*Future Pandemic Updates will continue to be issued as significant events occur.*

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