

Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, December 01, 2014

The largest, most severe and most complex outbreak of Ebola virus disease in history is unfolding with frightening consequences in a number of countries in West Africa. As of December 1st, 2014 – no Ebola virus cases have been reported in Canada.

And yet, within such a global context, the Archbishop of Toronto encourages all parish clergy to remind themselves of the protocols regarding contagion and the use of the common cup. These protocols are available on the Diocesan website under “Transmission of Disease via the Common Cup” found at; <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-administration/emergency-preparedness/resources/>.

Parishes are encouraged to practise the protocols outlined within these documents. The use of hand sanitizers is always encouraged. For those who wish, partaking of the bread only during the Eucharist, known as partaking in one kind only, is acceptable within our church. **The practice of intinction; dipping the bread or wafer into the wine, is consider a high risk activity as regards contagion and so is prohibited in this Diocese.**

The Diocese continues to monitor the Ebola virus outbreak and will follow the guidelines recommended by the Toronto, Provincial and Federal departments of Public Health as and when they are issued.

For additional information on the Ebola virus, please refer to; the Ontario Ministry of health and Long Term Care @ <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/default.aspx>

Public Health Ontario @ <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Viral-Hemorrhagic-Fevers.aspx>

and the World Council of Churches @ <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/health-and-healing/ebola-newsletter/>

For further information and resources, please contact the Reverend Canon Douglas Graydon, coordinator of Chaplaincy Services at 416-363-6021 or dgraydon@toronto.anglican.ca