

A quick guide for sacristans and servers



This quick guide needs to be read and understood in the context of a national flu pandemic.

We want people to keep coming to church and not feel at risk. At a time when illness is spreading it will be reassuring for people to know that their church is taking their health seriously by seeing all who help in church cleaning their hands.

Related worship issues

Worship leader cover

If a cover celebrant is attending then you must make sure he or she is aware of, and will follow, the pandemic protocols operating in the parish.

Candles

Tapers need to be removed from votive/candle stands. Prayer candle stands can continue to be used, but make sure no tapers are left at the candle stand. Votives or candles in stands should be lit from an already lit votive and not using shared tapers.

Water

Check there is no water in water stoups. Water stoups or bowls of water at the door of church where fingers are dipped represent a major risk of infection and should be removed or emptied.

Before any service

1. All involved in the service-clergy/servers/ should sterilise hands before processing in.



Communion check list

Before a main communion service

1. All servers to wash/sterilise hands.
2. Wash chalice, pattern and cruets (water vessels) in boiling water.
3. Linen to be used must have been cleaned and fresh.
4. Albs, stoles, preaching scarves, surplice should be cleaned regularly. In between cleaning and potential contamination they should be put somewhere secure so people cannot be exposed to the virus on them for at least 48 hours before re-use, and ideally held in a well ventilated and brightly sunlit area.
5. Hand gel at lectern for those who read.
6. Hand gel in place for celebrant and those who will help with distribution.
7. Check altar rail wipes in place.

During the communion service

1. All involved in the service-clergy/servers/ should sterilise hands before processing in.
2. Ask people who read to sterilise their hands before they read.
3. Peace - shaking of hands will be suspended.
4. The celebrant should sterilise hands at the usual time for the lavabo (the ritual washing the Eucharistic prayer).
5. Celebrant and communion assistants should sterilise hands just before distribution.
6. Communion will only be given in one kind.
7. Intinction should stop.
8. The host must not be placed on the tongue.
9. Bread or wafers should be dropped into the hand of those receiving-celebrants should not touch the hands of communicants, if accidental touch occurs hands must be sterilised.
10. Encourage people to stand when receiving or wipe the communion rail, with an antiseptic wipe, with liturgical 'wiper' following the ministrant, and wipe each section of the rail as each communicant moves away.
11. All involved in the distribution should sterilise hands after the ablutions.

After a communion service has ended

1. Wash communion vessels in scalding water and store in sealed containers.
2. Take linen home for boil washing and store in sealed containers.
3. Empty bins.
4. Sterilise hands.

This guide contains information drawn from the Manchester Diocesan Flu Protocols July 2009 edition For more information visit www.manchester.anglican.org/pandemic

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester