



Episcopal Office, Diocese of Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

Bureau épiscopal, Diocèse d'Ottawa
L'Eglise anglicane du Canada

The Right Reverend John H. Chapman
Bishop of Ottawa

Son Excellence Monseigneur John H. Chapman
Évêque d'Ottawa

*With God's grace, the mission of our ministries
is to enable people to know Jesus Christ,
to live and share the good news,
to grow in faith, and to serve God's world.*

March 5, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a lot of news and anxiety about the Novel Coronavirus known as COVID 19 in our communities, as well as in the churches of the Diocese of Ottawa. Our Primate, The Most Rev. Linda Nichols, and several Archbishops and Bishops in the Church, have issued statements and guidelines. The Diocese of Ottawa has developed its own guidelines drawn on these and other public health agencies which are attached. These go into effect immediately.

Given that there are currently no known cases of people with COVID 19 in Eastern Ontario or Western Quebec, all health assessments are that the risk here is low. This could change should the virus progress to our areas, at which time these guidelines will be changed.

Drawing on the document "Responding to the Coronavirus: Expressing our Unity in Christ in our Church Communities and in the Holy Eucharist" from the Diocese of New Westminster, the questions about COVID 19 and the Church are:

- How can we continue to nurture our sense of oneness with God and with each other in the face of worry about either catching or transmitting COVID 19 to others?
- What specifically is the best thing to do within the celebration of the Eucharist to minimize the risk of someone becoming infected with COVID 19?
- What can we do to raise our own and others' awareness of our fears related to the geographic areas where COVID 19 emerged and is spreading? How can we take actions to prevent those fears from turning into prejudices?

I commend the attached guidelines to you for practice in this Diocese immediately. Should conditions worsen, this Diocese will issue additional guidelines. I remain,

Yours in the faith of Christ,

The Rt. Rev. John H. Chapman
Bishop of Ottawa

JHC/hnp
Encl.