



11 March 2020

To: Licensed and PTO Clergy  
Readers  
Deanery Lay Chairs  
PCC Secretaries  
Churchwardens

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

In my letter of 6 March 2020, I stated that our approach to Covid-19 (Coronavirus) would be consistent with the advice received from the Government and the Church of England.

I am writing to you now because as of 10 March 2020 new advice has been published from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The advice states:

*It is our view, in light of the continued increase of Covid-19 cases in the United Kingdom, that it is now necessary to suspend the administration of the chalice as well as physical contact during the sharing of the peace, blessing or "laying on of hands".*

*We therefore advise that all priests should:-*

- Offer Communion in one kind only to all communicants i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer/host, with the priest alone taking the wine;
- suspend handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace;
- suspend direct physical contact as part of a blessing or 'laying on of hands'.

**Manchester Diocese will adopt these recommendations with immediate effect.**

I expect all clergy and others administering the sacraments (including home communions) to fall in line. Anglican teaching is very clear that to receive either the bread or the wine is to receive the sacrament in its fullness

I would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasise the guidance already given concerning the importance of good hygiene practice in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 as set out in my letter of 6 March 2020.

Parishes and clergy are encouraged to regularly access the information and advice published by the Church of England.

The advice can be found at [www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus](http://www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus).

With the situation changing quickly, I would also like to reassure everyone that the Diocesan Coronavirus Response Group will convene tomorrow and will continue to meet until further notice. Updates, guidance and information will be shared across our Diocese in order that we can support each other.

Yours ever,