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November 2, 2009

**Ongoing Communication regarding the H1N1 Flu Virus**

To all clergy and employees of the Archdiocese of Toronto,

I wish to provide you with an additional update regarding proactive measures in relation to the H1N1 Flu Virus. In my communication of September 16, 2009, I provided a number of recommendations based on counsel from health officials and those experienced with pandemic planning.

We have been closely monitoring the situation. At this time it is necessary for us to elevate our diligence to the next level in pandemic planning. **For the health and safety of all people of faith, parishes must implement the changes outlined below at all masses as of Tuesday, November 3, 2009 until further notice.**

- Temporarily suspend communion from the chalice.
- Temporarily suspend communion on the tongue.
- Parishes should provide hand cleaning stations near church entrances.
- Refrain from shaking hands during the sign of peace. A nod, bow or other appropriate gesture should be encouraged.
- All those distributing communion are asked to wash their hands before mass. An alcohol-based sanitizer should be provided so that all ministers may sanitize their hands before and after distributing communion.
- Please remind your parishioners that if they are feeling sick or ill, it is best for them to stay home.

I ask that you communicate these changes widely to your parish community. Our Office of Public Relations & Communications will release this information to local media and through our own H1N1 website: [www.archtoronto.org/flu](http://www.archtoronto.org/flu).

To the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto, I recognize the distress these changes to our sacred liturgy may cause for some. Be assured that these are temporary measures only, intended to protect and care for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Please join me in offering prayers for the sick and suffering in our community.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Thomas Collins*

Thomas Collins  
Archbishop of Toronto