

South West Ministry Course

Policy Statement

Swine Flu Pandemic

As we begin a new academic year it is important that we, in line with the churches we serve and many other organisations, issue reasonable and reviewable guidelines with regard to the Swine Flu pandemic

Our policy, discussed by the staff group and confirmed by the Chair of Council, is as follows:

1. In anticipation of a possible development in the pandemic over the winter months, the Course will remain prepared to cancel planned events as seems necessary. If such an eventuality occurs, every effort will be made to inform students of this decision in good time and to make good training that has been missed.
2. The Course expects that any SWMTC student suffering cold or flu like symptoms before a Course gathering will not attend the event, and will inform his or her Course tutor of this.
3. With regard to administration of the Eucharist, the Course is fully aware of the advice of the Department of Health as interpreted and recommended by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York that 'those presiding at Holy Communion suspend the administration of the chalice during this wave of pandemic flu'. At this point in time however, in light of the current assessment of the pandemic and practice that we have observed across the dioceses (for example, at the ordinations at Exeter Cathedral Communion was taken in both kinds) we have decided to retain receiving Communion in both kinds. As good practice, the presiding minister will wash his or her hands with the appropriate alcohol based rub before handling the elements and the vessels. The sharing of the Peace will remain at the discretion of individual communicants.

This policy will remain under continual review.

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy please contact you staff tutor in the first instance.

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