



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes

From: Archbishop Gagnon

+ R. A.

Date: March 4, 2020

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Media coverage of the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases worldwide has led to some concerns among pastors and parishioners.

We have been monitoring information from Manitoba Health with the goal of acting responsibly based on information from reliable sources.

The latest bulletin (#6) from Manitoba Health (February 28, 2020) indicates that Manitoba has no laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 and that the overall risk to Manitobans remains low. (www.gov.mb.ca/health)

There are everyday activities that can reduce exposure to the virus and protect public health:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water
- Sneeze or cough into your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Staying home when you are sick

As far as liturgical practices, at this time it is not deemed necessary to alter our current practices. Parishes are asked to ensure that those distributing Communion wash their hands or use a hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of Communion.

We will continue to monitor Manitoba Health for any changes in the status of COVID-19 in our province.

Please continue to pray for those who are infected by the coronavirus.