

Swine flu advice for Christingle Celebrations

Please tell everyone involved in the organisation of your Christingle celebration about the precautions you are taking to prevent the spread of Swine Flu (including clergy and youth workers).

The following guidance may help in reducing the spread of infection:

- 1) If there is someone responsible for Health and Safety or who is dealing with Swine Flu precautions within your group, talk to them about your Christingle celebration and any events in which Christingles are made.
- 2) Think about all the events related to your Christingle celebration in which there could be a risk of spreading the Swine Flu virus. These might include:
 - a. The Christingle celebration itself
 - b. The making of the Christingles
 - c. Holy Communion if it is part of the Christingle celebration¹
 - d. A Christingle meal or activity in which food is shared if it is part of the celebration
- 3) For all these events:
 - a. Clean and disinfect areas where Christingles, food or drink are made or given out.
 - b. Clean and disinfect the hands of those making or giving out the Christingles, food or drink.
 - c. Clean and disinfect any equipment used to make the Christingles, food or drink such as knives or scissors.
 - d. Ensure that everyone involved in making or distributing Christingles, food or drink is aware of the precautions being taken.
- 4) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that those who are ill or think they are ill during a pandemic are positively encouraged not to attend your Christingle celebration or the events in which the Christingles are made.
- 5) Download the government leaflet '**Catch it, Bin it, Kill it**' and display it at the premises where everyone can read it. You can also download this leaflet in other languages.

General advice on Swine flu

Call the swine flu helpline 0800 1 513 513 or NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or see www.direct.gov.uk or NHSdirect.

If you are working with young children, the Department for Children, Schools and Families provide advice via teachernet.

Visit the Health Protection Agency and Department of Health websites.

'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' - Download the NHS poster.

You can reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of catching or spreading swine flu by:

- 1) Catch it: Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- 2) Bin it: Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissues as soon as possible.
- 3) Kill it: Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

For other health and safety considerations relating to a Christingle celebration, please also be aware of the Christingle safety poster, which is available to order from The Children's Society's website or by calling 0845 600 8585.

¹ See the Church of England's advice on celebration Holy Communion during the Swine Flu pandemic - <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/swineflu230709.html>