

# The Anglican Diocese of Nelson

## Traffic Light System: Fact Sheet 4

### Communion and the Peace



*Current as at 3 December 2021*

#### Communion

Parishes should adopt the following protocols relating to the administration of Communion:

**The common cup and the practice of intinction are *not permitted* during the pandemic.**

- Those approaching to receive communion are strongly encouraged to be masked and physically distanced.
- Those serving communion at orange and red (VP and non VP) are required to be masked.
- Unless using individual cups\*, parishes must only communicate the bread. (Receiving one element in communion is sufficient to have participated in communion.)
- Those administering communion must use alcohol-based hand sanitiser prior to the administration of communion. If alcohol-based hand sanitiser is unavailable set up a hand-washing station with bowls, water, soap and towels for those administering communion to use.
- Those administering communion must ensure their hands do not touch the hands of those receiving communion. If this occurs accidentally they must re-sanitise their hands before continuing to administer communion.
- Those receiving communion must use hand sanitiser prior to receiving communion. Hand sanitiser stations must be placed near communion stations.
- People with cold and flu-like symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, fever/temperature, or difficulty breathing) must not administer or receive communion (***and must not attend the service!***).
- To avoid transmission via the communion rail, those receiving communion should ideally remain standing. If people steady themselves at the rail then discretely wipe with a sanitising cloth between communicants.

#### \*Use of Individual Cups for Communion

Individual cups may be used *at all levels for VP and non-VP services* so long as strict hygiene measures are observed.

Note places of risk in the use of individual cups:

- Pouring of wine/juice into the cups – Hand hygiene and wearing a mask during filling would be appropriate)
- Cups exposed to air (droplets) after filling. (Covering would remove this risk)
- Distribution of the cups to ensure no multiple touching of the tray. (Parishioners to sanitise before taking cups from tray, then have them place/drop cup on another tray after consuming the juice/wine.)
- Cleaning afterwards, unless they are single-use plastics. Empty (without handling) the tray/basket of glass cups into hot water with detergent and wash thoroughly. Dry upside-

down on a clean cloth. (Or run through steriliser if that is feasible.) Plastic cups should be disposed of after use.

### **Exchanging the Peace**

Parishioners must not shake hands when exchanging the peace. Other gestures can be used such as waving or giving a 'thumbs up'.