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It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

For information

Church of England

The Church of England updated its [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for churches](#) on 10 March at 17:40, as follows:

'It is our view, in light of the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in the United Kingdom, that it is now necessary to suspend the administration of the chalice as well as physical contact during the sharing of the peace, blessing or "laying on of hands". We therefore advise that all priests should:

- Offer Communion in one kind only to all communicants i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer/host, with the priest alone taking the wine;
- suspend handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace;
- suspend direct physical contact as part of a blessing or 'laying on of hands'.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have [written to clergy](#) to update on this guidance.'

The Archbishops' advice replicates the new guidance and states:

'From today, when we preside at the Eucharist at Lambeth Palace and at Bishopthorpe Palace, we are going to give communion in one kind only (the bread) and will not share the peace nor lay on hands for blessings.'

[Source: Church of England, 10 March]