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To clergy and parish wardens,

I know that many of us have been administering Holy Communion for several weeks. I am glad that we have been able to do this and it has been a blessing to many. I have been asked to give some guidance with regard to the Eucharist in peoples' homes.

Many of us will have been doing this for a few weeks now and I have no wish to see anything change provided they are being done safely. For those who would like some help in thinking things through, I offer the following.

The two most important things are to ensure social distancing and that there is no handling of the elements which might cause infection. Therefore, the following of provincial public health guidelines about handwashing and sanitization is important. There should be no sharing of chalices in the sense of people physically drinking from the same vessel.

Personally, I would share Holy Communion in the home as in a church setting. Since the return to worship in our buildings I have celebrated the Eucharist in several places, three times in one parish, in one kind. If I were doing home Communion from there, I would reserve bread at the Table and use it in homes during the week.

If it is your tradition to consecrate in the home there is no reason why this cannot be done, whilst observing the provincial guidelines. This would have been the way in which I would have celebrated Holy Communion in my parish ministry. The reason I would do it differently now is that it is less complicated and remains efficacious.

Obviously, if layreaders, with the Bishop's permission, are administering home Communion they should follow the guidance given by the rector/priest-in-charge.

David