

## Topics

Statement of employment-physician Dr. Peter Fabritius concerning the “new flu”:  
**For now there is no need for any special actions** in Churches and their institutions.  
 The keeping of the **cleaning- and hygiene-plans**, according to the infection-protection-law  
 (Infektions-Schutz-Gesetz), **is sufficient.**

## Occupational health and safety in churches and social ministries

The “new flu” is being spoken of everywhere. In the case of an epidemic Churches do not need to restrain from celebrating the Lords supper, but they should use the given situation in order to discuss the necessity of a “**plan B**”. A **hygienic way of acting** should be the **cleaning of hands** before giving the Lords supper, because besides the killing of germs, unpleasant smells from shaving-soap or perfumes would also be removed. Fellowship-cups must be hygienically wiped on a regular basis. In the **case of an epidemic** the use of **single cups** would be highly recommended. According to Dr. Fabritius the rise of a pandemic is expected on a statistical basis. These information’s have been mentioned in connection with the reports in the media on the swine-influenza (“Schweinegrippe”), although the experts are united in their opinion that the “new flu” would presumably not be the cause. That is because of the mild progression of the sickness. Infections with the A/H1N1 virus last only a few days with generally healthy people. In contrast, more than 10 000 people die at the Asian flu every year. For seasonal flues the inoculations by the personal physician is recommended. Generally liquate-soap and **one time towels / air-dryer** should be provided (cloth-towels only for single stuff members).



**Dishes** should be cleansed with 60°C in order to kill germs.

Means for **hands- and surface-disinfection** should be provided **in cases of emergency**.  
 Already **during simple flu-sicknesses toilets, baby-pots and nap-changing areas must be disinfected**. A **general** surface-disinfection, especially in the surrounding of children, **is not** recommended, according to the Robert-Koch-Institute, because this could help to cause **allergies**.

## Training and Collaboration

On the 20<sup>th</sup>- to 21<sup>st</sup> of November there will be a **USB-conference for occupational health and safety** in Dorfweil / Hessen. One of the speakers will be Dipl.-Ing. Wolf Schmidt. He is the new VBG-coordinator for the prevention area Churches. Topics will be for instance: hygiene in local Churches, Security at building sites, contractor-duties for church-leaderships, safety on the road... (Expenses will be covered by the VBG; more information’s on our website under “Mitarbeiter – Tagungen”. Local employees and safety-managers in Churches please register immediately at Martin Breite, see beneath).

In October there will be a seminar by the VBG, in cooperation with the IGNS academy, on the topic: “**Burnout, Stress-prevention**”. This Seminar, initiated by USB, did find a great response.

For the year 2010 we plan a praxis-seminar on “Arrangement and proofing of playgrounds”, as well as “training for janitors”.

*„Establishing a high standard of occupational health and safety.“*

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