



DIOCESE OF OAKLAND
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May 5, 2021

Mandatory Requirements and Important Protocols for Parish Sponsored Events on Diocesan Property

The Diocese of Oakland continues to follow the directives of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to ensure the safety of our communities. The California Department of Public Health guidelines, updated April 15, 2021, for indoor and outdoor gatherings (different from those of worship services) are as follows:

Orange Tier (Alameda & Contra Costa Counties are currently in this tier)

- Outdoor gatherings
 - Maximum of 50 people
- Indoor gatherings are strongly discouraged
 - Maximum 25% capacity where capacity limits exist or 25 people, whichever is fewer.

Food and Drink

Eating and drinking increases the risk of COVID-19 because a mask must be lowered or removed. Food and drink should be limited to outdoors and the maximum capacity based on color tier should be observed. There is no food or drink preparation on parish premises and potlucks are not approved at this time. All food must be catered by a professional catering company or restaurant, with appropriate permits for selling or catering food.

Social Distancing / Sanitizing / Face Coverings

Even when gathering outdoors, attendees should continue to maintain social distance of 6 ft from others not in the same household or bubble, and mask or face covering must be worn at all times or placed over mouth and nose as soon as possible following eating or drinking.

Hand sanitizers should be readily available for all attendees. Those individuals serving food must wash or sanitize their hands frequently and face coverings must be worn at all times.

Vaccinated Individuals

Because it is possible for fully vaccinated individuals to contract and spread the COVID-19 virus, all persons attending an outdoor gathering must wear a mask or face covering, at all times.

Children under 16 years of age are still unable to be vaccinated and we must ensure we follow all necessary precautions to ensure their safety and the safety of all those individuals not yet vaccinated.

Self-Assessment

Remind people to stay home if they are not feeling well. Consider asking attendees the following self-assessment questions before coming to your outdoor event:

- Do you have a fever of more than 100.4 degrees?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Are you coughing or sneezing?
- Experiencing body aches?
- Experiencing shortness of breath?
- Have you been **caring for** or **been in contact with** someone who has been diagnosed with or is showing symptoms of COVID-19?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, please stay home and notify your doctor.

Parish Facility Rentals for Private Events

Procedures for reservations of parish facilities and procuring the requisite third-party insurance coverage will be changing. We are working with our insurance broker and carrier to automate this process and will provide training on the new automated procedures in the next few weeks. Coupling the needed time for rollout of these new procedures with the current significant county restrictions on private gatherings, rental of parish facilities remains not permitted at this time.

For the complete California Department of Public Health document, [click here](#).

Before planning an outdoor gathering event, please contact the Human Resources or Insurance & Benefits Departments at (510) 267-8359 or (510) 267-8360/61, respectively, if you have any questions.