



CATHOLIC
MUTUAL GROUP

Winter 2025

COMMITMENT + EXPERTISE + STABILITY

The Catholic Mutual Connection

Planning for a Great Year: Church & School Security

Safety threats in our most sacred places can be a source of undue stress and anxiety. Many of our daily activities now come with a heightened sense of alertness and the caveat that anything can happen.

Catholic Mutual Group strives to remain proactive and vigilant about security issues in churches and schools. That's why we've created a multitude of resources to help you prepare for the unknown.



The most comprehensive information on parish safety can be found in our [Parish Safety and Security Guide](#). This guide provides the information you need to form a great offensive security strategy, from developing your safety team to dealing with mental health crises to planning large-scale events.

Other CARES documents include [Church Perimeter Security](#), [Active Shooter Emergency Response](#), [Lockdown Procedures](#), [Protests and Disturbances](#), and [School Violence Prevention & Preparedness](#).

CMG Connect also offers training videos that provide comprehensive safety information. Be sure to view the [Critical Incidents: Preparation and Response](#) and [School Safety Intruder](#) videos.

While we pray never to encounter issues that require implementing these measures, being prepared is essential to our reality. The Risk Management team at Catholic Mutual can help you navigate how to approach your security prevention and preparedness policies. Please don't hesitate to reach out for help.

Tips for Safe Transportation

Providing transportation to and from activities poses a high-risk exposure for your location. Ideally, **limiting** the coordination of transportation or providing the transportation by the church/school is best to minimize risk; however, it isn't that easy of a solution. When it is determined that transportation is deemed necessary and ministry-based, you should refer to your (Arch)Diocesan Vehicle Safety Policy to ensure practices associated with transportation align with that policy.



Our preferred options, with the first being the most ideal method and the last being the least ideal, are as follows:

1. Whenever possible, it's best to have participants meet at the location.
2. Utilize hired transportation (i.e., a contracted charter/bus company).
3. Arrange to use approved/vetted employee/volunteer driver(s) and determine which vehicle will be utilized (parish vehicle, rental vehicle, or volunteer vehicle).

When transportation needs to be provided, it should be organized by someone at the parish/school and this individual should ensure drivers follow best practices. A good resource for individuals responsible for the oversight of transportation is to watch our training video on [CMG Connect titled Church Transportation – Is it Necessary and Ministry-Based?](#) Diocesan policy should be followed if the decision is made to allow volunteer drivers to use their own vehicles. We also recommend following best practices, including having each driver take the defensive driving course on [CMG Connect](#). Drivers should be at least 21 years of age, and 25 or older if transporting other individuals. They should also be in compliance with any (Arch)Diocese safe environment requirements. Employees and volunteers using their own vehicle should also maintain minimum liability coverage on their vehicle of \$100,000/\$300,000. It is important to inform anyone using their own vehicle in advance that their insurance would be primary if an accident occurred.

It is also important to remember that 11 or more (including the driver) passenger vans should not be used and are strictly prohibited by many (Arch)Diocesan policies. If larger vehicles are needed, some alternatives that may be utilized instead of the 11 or more passenger vans include mini-vans, Suburbans, Multi-function School Activity Buses (MFSABs), or a school bus.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Risk Management Representative at CMG.

Connect with CMG Connect!

Please visit [CMG Connect](#), which is regularly updated with timely content. We encourage you to share it with others who would also benefit from the information.

To view this newsletter on our website, please click [here](#).

For more helpful information, please visit the Catholic Mutual Group [newsletter archives](#).

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