



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO  
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OFFICE OF CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES & SOCIAL  
CONCERNS

To: Pastors, Parochial Vicars, Administrators, Deacons and Parish Staff  
From: John Watkins  
Re: **Guidelines for hosting parish healthcare fairs**  
Date: April 7, 2021

Dear pastors, parochial vicars, administrators, deacons and parish staff,

Church parishes may find the need to, as part of community-outreach, to sponsor health fairs where attendees can learn about health resources or receive low level medical services (i.e. vaccinations). This is often to help people that lack such information or access to services due to economic and cultural barriers.

The following are guidelines that should be followed to minimize liability and ensure conformity with Church teaching.

- No healthcare provider or vendor may be present if the provider's business in any way promotes or provides abortion, contraception, euthanasia, or other actions contrary to Church teaching. This is even if the provider provides other legitimate, moral healthcare services.
- Outside groups/vendors involved in healthcare events on parish grounds must be vetted by the Office of Catholic Charities & Social Concerns prior to publicizing the event (contact info listed below).
- Outside group/vendors providing health education or medical services on parish premises need to provide a **Certificate of Insurance** (COI) showing they carry the required insurance limits for General Liability, Automobile Liability and Workers Compensation. In terms of the General Liability coverage, the parish and diocese should be named as an additional insured for the event. Additionally, they should carry and provide proof of Medical Malpractice coverage.
- The parish should also obtain a **Facility Usage Agreement** (FUA) signed by the clinic provider/group representative (attached).
- Church representatives, whether paid or volunteer, should not themselves offer healthcare screening, diagnostic advice, or related services.

If you have any questions, please contact John Watkins, Director for the Office of Catholic Charities & Social Concerns, at 916-733-0254 or email [jwatkins@scd.org](mailto:jwatkins@scd.org).

Respectfully,

John Watkins, Director  
Office of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns  
Diocese of Sacramento