



Safe Environment Requirements During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

April 6, 2020

The Diocese of San José remains steadfast in our commitment to the safety and well-being of our children and most vulnerable. Even in the midst of pandemic uncertainty, resulting in school closures and the suspension of public Masses, we must remain vigilant in order to protect our youth and vulnerable populations. Research and experts alike warn that times of heightened stress and isolation can trigger abuse, disclosures or lead to victim/survivors requiring more care and support. As outlined in the [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#), we recognize that clergy, Diocesan personnel, volunteers, parents, and youth play a critical role in safety and prevention.

Churches, schools, and youth organizations must ensure that children, youth and vulnerable adults who worship, study, or participate in activities sponsored by a parish can do so in the safest and most secure setting possible. Thus, all personnel and volunteers in every Diocesan parish, school, institution or ministry who serve in positions of trust with children, minors and/or vulnerable adults must continue to comply with [Safe Environment Requirements](#) during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Safe Environment Requirements include the criminal background screening process established by the Diocese, acknowledgement of receipt of the Diocesan Adult Code of Conduct (which is captured when registering for online training), and completion of the Safe Environment training program VIRTUS. The Safe Environment training must be renewed every three (3) years for clergy, employees and active volunteers.

1. **Live Scan & Background Screenings During the Coronavirus Outbreak:** Volunteers in *privileged positions of trust* and *predictable positions of trust*, as defined in the [Diocese of San Jose's Safe Environment Policy](#), must complete a criminal background screening. Per diocesan policy, volunteers in *privileged positions of trust* are required to complete Live Scan fingerprinting, and are still able to do so by appointment only with Verify Group: www.verifygroup.com. Verify Group is complying with social distancing and making their appointments 15 minutes apart to facilitate time to disinfect the office between applicants. The [California Department of Justice](#) recognizes Verify Group as an essential public service under the current circumstances. Online reservations can be scheduled using this link: <https://bit.ly/3bP3LSd>

However, we acknowledge that the current pandemic raises legitimate concerns for travel and in-person meetings. Therefore, as a short-term emergency provision during the Shelter-At-Home and social distancing mandates, volunteers in *privileged positions of trust* may opt for an [Online Background Check](#), which is usually reserved for personnel in *predictable positions of trust*. Once the Shelter-At-Home and social distancing regulations have been lifted, the volunteer will be required to complete the Live Scan background check to maintain eligibility for service in a *privileged position of trust*. The cost of an Online Background Check is \$16. The following link will

provide you and volunteers access to the Online Background Check submission website specific to your parish or school community: <https://diocesesanjose.quickapp.pro/positions>

2. **Safe Environment Trainings During the Coronavirus Outbreak:** All personnel and volunteers must complete Diocesan Safe Environment training before they are allowed to participate. At this time, training is provided exclusively via the VIRTUS online platform (www.virtusonline.org). The training is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. As of March 14, 2020, all live Safe Environment trainings are suspended until further notice. For more information, please visit <https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/>

Important Note: Please remain mindful and considerate of volunteers who are over 60 years of age or have compromised immune systems. It may not be in their best interest to serve in some capacities.