

## THE CATHOLIC MUTUAL CONNECTION



### Back-to-Playground Safety

It's an old joke that most kids' favorite school subject is recess. But with an estimated 200,000 emergency room visits due to playground accidents a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), it's important to take playground safety precautions as seriously as other back-to-school preparations. Considering more than 75 percent of playground injuries come from falls to the ground, it is best practice to start at the bottom when assessing playground equipment safety. Catholic Mutual CARES outlines [guidelines for surfaces](#) developed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and the standards for the quality of materials used in manufacturing set by The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). We also have information on [playground equipment, signage and fencing](#) for children at all ages and stages of growth, and a [playground inspection list](#) to ensure your property is compliant with current safety standards. For more information about playground safety, please contact your risk management representative.

### SAFETY TIP

We've all been to Mass in the summertime when the inside of church felt hotter than the temperatures outside. While many churches are now air-conditioned, others are not. Making sure there are plenty of fans, both electric and handheld, is important to preventing heat-related health issues, particularly among older folks, young children, pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions. Parishioners should also have access to drinking water while at church. Even if a church is air-conditioned, it is important to remember that people can be vulnerable to heat during transitions to and from the outdoors, as well as during off-hours such as perpetual adoration.

### Festival Food Safety

During festival season, many contribute their time and talent to cooking on-site, or donating food items such as baked goods for a cake walk. While the delicious fruits of volunteers' labor can be very valuable for fundraising and fellowship-building, they could potentially also leave a parish open to risk due to food safety issues. The [Guidelines for Parish Festivals](#) document in our CARES library offers a section on food safety that we recommend be shared with anyone volunteering to make or serve homemade food at your festivals.



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