



## Shasta County Health & Human Services Agency

### Guidance for alternative graduations

While public gatherings are still prohibited in California, many schools are finding creative ways to celebrate graduations. Virtual ceremonies, drive-in ceremonies, parades and staggered photo sessions in cap and gown at the schools are some of the ways schools can ensure that graduates' years of hard work are honored. Alternative activities are permissible as long as social distancing is in place.

#### Drive-in activities

- The gathering must take place in a location large enough to safely accommodate the number of vehicles, and also allow for sufficient spacing for emergency entry and exit.
- Have staggered event times to limit the number of vehicles and guests.
- The ceremony should be open only to invited guests.
- Event personnel can direct traffic to park in designated spots, 6 feet apart from other vehicles.
- Attendees must stay in their vehicles at all times.
  - Vehicles must be enclosed and cannot include motorcycles, convertibles with the top open, vehicle with no doors or bicycles
  - Attendees sharing a vehicle must reside in the same household
- Graduates will walk from their vehicles to a staging area one at a time, maintaining physical distancing guidelines of 6 feet apart. Graduates must wear masks, but can remove them to take a photo.
- Event personnel must be spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- The person distributing diplomas and special recognitions must wear a cloth face covering and gloves.
- Event personnel who are handing items to graduates (e.g. diplomas) should wear masks and gloves.
- A photographer can take a photo of the students receiving their diplomas from 6 feet away before the graduate goes back to his/her vehicle.
- All people besides security (if any), school staff, event personnel, and the presenter of the diplomas must be in vehicles.
- No bathrooms for public use.
- Wash hands before and after the ceremony, or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

### **Parade**

- Create a traffic flow plan for how vehicles enter and exit the event.
- Event could be in a large parking lot that could hold all the vehicles.
- Everyone attending would remain in their vehicles for the duration of the ceremony.
- Broadcast the ceremony via FM radio so that the families can listen in their cars.
- When graduate's name is announced, they drive up to a designated point.
- The person distributing diplomas and special recognitions must wear a cloth face covering and gloves.
- Limit parade to less than 3 hours.

### **Virtual graduation**

- Present diplomas virtually.
- Mail diplomas to the students.
- Only students and presenters are visible.

### **Other considerations**

- Livestream your events on Facebook Live so friends and family who can't attend due to out-of-county travel restrictions can enjoy the ceremony.
- Consider what accommodations need to be made to ensure equitable participation (e.g., students and families without access to a vehicle).
- There should not be passing of objects or physical contact between households.
- Graduation caps should not be thrown in the air outside, as this may encourage attendees to leave the vehicle.
- Whenever possible, use individual microphones if multiple speakers will participate. If a microphone must be shared, consider cleaning between speakers or leaving it untouched on a stand.
- Remember, the safest option right now is for everyone to stay home.

If you have questions about your graduation plan and need help determining if it's allowable, please contact Beth Woodworth at [brwoodworth@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:brwoodworth@co.shasta.ca.us).