

Graduation Ceremonies

At this time, WI Department of Health Services (DHS) and WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recommend that all schools postpone large public gatherings, such as graduations. Given that high school graduation is a special time of celebration for Wisconsin seniors and their families, Wisconsin communities have proposed creative ways to celebrate while maintaining safe practices. Some of these ideas include:

1. Virtual Graduation Ceremonies

-  Hosting a virtual graduation ceremony is the safest. We strongly recommend this approach to maximize the safety and health of everyone involved.
-  Up to 10 staff members (including speakers) may be present at the location in order to organize and conduct the ceremony. Social distancing requirements must be followed and face coverings must be worn by non-speaking personnel.

2. Drive-in Ceremony

-  Students and families could arrive and remain seated in cars for minimal physical engagement. Ceremony may be broadcast by a local radio station or a large screen.
-  Everyone wears masks. One car per graduate with members of same household only. Vehicles must be parked with 6 feet of separation between vehicles with clearly marked parking stalls and law enforcement presence to help direct traffic. Diploma may be handed to student by official wearing mask and gloves.

3. Drive-thru Ceremony

-  Planned and organized parade with ceremony broadcast by local radio station. Curbside pickup of diploma by official wearing gloves and mask.
-  Everyone wears masks. One car per graduate with members of same household only. Law enforcement presence to help direct traffic. Diploma may be handed to student by official wearing mask and gloves.
-  Drive-thru ceremony for graduates may occur only if following these additional guidelines:
 -  Law Enforcement assists with enforcement and control.
 -  District/School could purchase signs for each graduate and lines the signs around school entrances and grounds. Signs would be collected and distributed to students at a later date.
 -  Students/family members will NOT be allowed to get out of their vehicles.
 -  Staff allowed to stand on school property, while social distanced as far apart as possible, waving to the graduates. Staff cannot bring their family members.
 -  No picture stops and no gatherings of students or families.