

GRADUATION EVENT



TIPS FOR CHILDCARE

GROUP GATHERINGS POSE AN INCREASED RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION. The CDC and DPH recommend limiting group gatherings.*

SAFEST!

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Safest



- Teachers, staff and families can prerecord speeches, dedications, etc.
- Virtual events allow greater participation from friends and family.
- A school or graduation committee can send special kits to families.
- Graduation backdrops, homemade banners and photo wall ideas can be shared via school's social media.
- Events can be streamed live on social media using special school hashtags, etc.



DRIVE-THRU GRADUATIONS

Caution

- Families should remain in a fully enclosed vehicle for the duration of the event.
- Occupants of a vehicle should be members of the same household and should not change vehicles during the event.
- Events should take place in locations large enough to accommodate distancing between vehicles to allow for emergency entry or exit.
- Limit pictures of children taken outside of vehicles, allowing one child or family at a time.
- Separate areas for disinfected or new and used regalia (caps, gowns, tassels, props).
- Limit on-site changing by providing supplies in advance. If unavoidable, sanitize any commonly shared areas and items between uses.
- Photo frames should be sanitized between each use.
- If restrooms are made available, post social distancing reminders.
- Limit restroom capacity to 1 family at a time and promote social distancing in line with floor markers at an appropriate distance.



OUTDOOR and INDOOR EVENTS

NOT RECOMMENDED

IF OUTDOORS...

- Screen all individuals upon entry AND deny entry if red flags are raised. [Utilize the DECAL/DPH Symptom Screening Document.](#)
- Limit activity time to 15 minutes or less for each individual or family unit.
- Make announcements and use physical markers (i.e. floor tape) to ensure social distancing.
- Allocate physical space for each family (i.e. taped squares to indicate where families should stand).
- Have signs discouraging physical contact between attendees.
- Limit attendance to 2-4 guests per student AND encourage units to remain together and distanced from others.
- Limit bathroom use to one family unit at a time and promote social distancing in line.
- Deep clean after the event. Thoroughly clean all surfaces (chairs, props, etc.) with the appropriate solutions.

IF INDOORS...

- Leave the exit doors propped open to promote airflow and reduce the number of surfaces that visitors touch.
- Utilize multiple entrances and exits.
- Have signs and physical markers to direct the flow of individuals through the facility.
- Repeat cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout the event.
- Close drinking fountains.

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****The CDC and Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County Health Departments advise against holding large gatherings. Outdoor events are safer than indoor events, but do not eliminate all risk. If you choose to host a large gathering, please consider these prevention measures.**

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate, remember to practice these COVID-19 prevention methods; to keep everyone safe:

Require masks

Masks should be required by all individuals 2+ years of age (graduates, guests and staff).

Sanitize those hands!

Make hand sanitizers available throughout.

Socially distance

Encourage families who don't live together to maintain 6-feet of distance from each other.

Limit guests

Limit the number of groups present at any given time. For example: split classes into smaller groups, and assign arrival times with 15+ minutes between arrivals.

Avoid sharing materials

Avoid sharing or exchanging materials. Discourage throwing graduation caps, "Sign-in" practices, gifts, flowers, diplomas, awards, medals, programs, etc.



COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Sources of Information *GA COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities - Updated December 14, 2020 z ** <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/five-ideas-for-a-pandemic-proof-graduation/2020/05>

*** <https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/coronavirus/14-ways-to-celebrate-your-childs-graduation-during-covid-19/> **** <https://oakhalli.com/how-to-hold-an-at-home-kindergarten-graduation-for-your-child/>

*****<https://ung.edu/commencement/ceremony-information.php> **<https://socoemergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/health-orders/guidance-relating-to-vehicle-based-school-graduation-drive-in-movies-and-faith-based-drive-thru-ceremonies>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>