

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PINE STREET HEALTH SERVICES
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Investing today for a healthy tomorrow

April 20, 2020

To: Superintendents of schools in Harvey County

From: Lynnette Redington, Director
Harvey County Health Department

Dr. Detweiler, Public Health Officer
Harvey County Health Dept. Medical Director

Re: 2020 Graduation Ceremony Guidance

In this unrepresented time of a global public health pandemic, thought of reworking traditions and ceremonies to remain vigilant to the health and safety of all is of utmost importance. Knowing the Governor's Stay At Home Order ends on May 3, and may be extended by state or local government, we all need to continue to be prudent with our interactions as there is no vaccine or cure at this time for COVID19.

Health Department staff and our county Public Health Officer have the following guidance for recognition of your graduating class of 2020.

1. Prepare to showcase the ceremony by video/teleconference for family, friends, and community members.
2. Record any speeches by faculty and students prior to the ceremony.
3. If an in-person event is planned...
 - a. before the event, send each graduating student a letter stressing the importance of social distancing, particularly at this event, and expectation of respect for these rules set by the Harvey County Health Department and your school district.
 - b. under 10 persons in one area (even outdoors) must be observed.
 - c. 6 foot social distancing must be observed.
 - d. Any faculty interaction with student must be conducted with no physical contact (i.e. (handing of diploma and/or honors envelopes, etc. without touching) and faculty **MUST** wear facemask.
 - e. Parents/Guardians may be present while the student is on school grounds to watch the hand-off of the diploma/honors, and leave immediately after to keep the number of occupants on grounds and in the building to a minimum. Communication of this should be made prior to the event and at the event.
4. Inform friends, family, and the public to watch the ceremony in the safety of their homes and continue gatherings to be in groups of less than 10.

We recognize this is a difficult task to ask of you, your staff, families, and graduating students. We do not take this guidance lightly, but look to your encouragement and respectfulness to implement a safe, social distancing graduation to best of your ability. If your district is planning an event, contact Lynnette Redington, Director, with date and time prior to the event. Also, feel free to contact the health department if you have any questions. Lynnette's direct contact information is: 316-283-5667 x 217 or lredington@harveycounty.com.

All of this is subject to change at any time by a state or local health order for the protection of the residents of Harvey County.

Harvey County Health Department is committed to protecting the public's health and environment, preventing disease, and promoting healthy living.