



## Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

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### Recommendation Regarding Graduation Ceremonies May 1, 2020

Public Health values our long-standing relationship with our K-12 school system partners. During this unprecedented time, we recognize the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our K-12 schools. The difficult decisions made by our Governor and our Director of the Ohio Department of Health pertaining to schools are designed to protect the health and safety of all Ohioans.

The recent *Statement on Graduation Ceremonies* released by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education provides guidance on options for best practices.

To comply with the spirit of the Stay Safe Ohio Order and social distancing requirements, Public Health strongly encourages school graduation ceremonies that are virtual or drive-through.

Although an option, single family in-person graduation ceremonies present challenges to ensuring the health and safety of participants and sanitation of the facility.

Due to the wide variation in plans among Montgomery County schools, Public Health is not approving or disapproving any specific school graduation ceremony plans.

The citizens of Dayton and Montgomery County have responded very well to the Governor's call for social distancing despite personal, professional, and economic suffering and losses. We encourage schools to continue to do their part as the Stay Safe Ohio Order and social distancing requirements remain in place, and as the consequent ongoing sacrifices also continue throughout our community.