

# GUIDANCE FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES

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## Overview

This document is intended to support schools and post-secondary institutions to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among graduates, staff, faculty, volunteers, and ceremony attendees when organizing graduation ceremonies. All gatherings must adhere to [public health orders](#), including [gathering restrictions](#) and [physical distancing requirements](#) of 2 metres between individuals not from the same household. The school or post-secondary institution responsible for organizing any graduation ceremony should also follow the [Workplace Guidance for Business Owners](#).

Facilities where graduation ceremonies are usually held (e.g. auditoriums) continue to be restricted from public access. Virtual or drive-in ceremonies offer an alternative to traditional in-person gatherings.

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduates, staff, faculty, volunteers, and ceremony attendees should use the <a href="#">self-assessment tool</a> before attending.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Ceremony Venue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ceremonies that take place in an auditorium or theatre setting are not allowed.</li><li>• Drive-in services may be held in designated parking lots or staging areas, and must meet the following conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Event organizers must have measures in place to keep attendees from leaving their vehicles at the service.</li><li>○ Vehicles should be separated by a minimum of two metres.</li><li>○ Where washroom access is provided, frequent cleaning and disinfection must occur.</li><li>○ Attendees leaving their vehicles to use the washrooms must maintain a minimum of two metres of separation from others at all times.</li></ul></li></ul>

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<b>Logistics</b>	<p>Crossing the stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Microphones should not be shared between speakers.</li><li>• Consider using a projector or video equipment to ensure all attendees can see the procession.</li><li>• If graduates will be walking across a stage, they should line up in groups of no more than 15, maintain 2 metres distance, and return to their vehicles once they have completed their procession.</li><li>• Establish a one-way procession.</li><li>• Ceremonies must not include any physical contact between graduates, staff or faculty, such as hand shaking or the sharing of items (e.g. name cards, paper diploma).</li><li>• Designate a staff member or volunteer to take photos of graduates as they cross the stage.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Attendees should not approach the stage to get photos.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Support for Public Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To enable contact tracing and follow-up, keep a listing of all graduates and attendees.</li><li>• Maintain an up-to-date contact list for all staff, faculty and volunteers who attend.</li></ul>