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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Lewis County

## **Lewis County Graduation Celebrations**

*June 5, 2020*

On June 4, 2020, [Interim Guidance for Graduation Celebrations During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) was issued by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). This guidance encourages school districts to consider the following alternative graduation celebrations (all of which maintain public health precautions for COVID-19):

- Virtual Ceremonies (host an online virtual ceremony and consider broadcasting live, if possible)
- Videos (pre-record and make available a graduation ceremony)
- Drive-in Graduations (students and only immediate family members who reside in the same household, should arrive and remain in cars for the entire ceremony)
- Drive-through Graduation (individual students and immediate family members arrive at an assigned time and exit the car individually to walk across a stage in their cap and gown)
- Individualized Ceremony (school officials may visit each graduate's home, while remaining outside and at least six feet away, to congratulate, take pictures, receive diploma, etc.).

While it is up to each district to determine how they will honor their graduating students, they are all consulting with Lewis County Public Health, local law enforcement and legal council to make sure that any in-person event is planned with everyone's safety in mind. We understand that these types of celebrations are not desired by school personnel, families or students, but large gatherings with people making sustained close contact are a place where coronavirus can easily infect many people quickly and continue its spread.

This document is intended to clarify the guidance that school districts are working with as they plan a safe graduation celebration. However, if you are planning to also celebrate at home with family and friends, please consider that as of today, in-person gatherings (preferably outside) are limited to 10 people, we still need to maintain 6 feet of separation in public, continue to wear a mask or face covering, and practice good hand hygiene.

New York State guidelines are subject to change as we learn more about this virus. Guidance will be updated and shared as new information is received. Lewis County Public Health would like to take this time to congratulate Lewis County's graduating students and express our appreciation for them, their families and their respective school districts. Your cooperation, patience and creativity during these challenging times has been instrumental in slowing the spread of COVID-19.