



Delaware General Health District

1 and 3 West Winter Street
P.O. Box 570
Delaware, Ohio 43015-0570
(740) 368-1700 Fax (740) 368-1736
DelawareHealth.org



Shelia Hiddleston, RN, MS
Health Commissioner

May 3, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian of a Graduate:

Delaware General Health District first would like to congratulate your student on their accomplishment especially during this unique and challenging time. We understand your graduate put in years of hard work and it does deserve to be recognized. We have worked with local school districts to provide an alternative to the traditional graduation ceremony.

We have received and continue to receive many questions regarding the Director's Stay Safe Order (May 1, 2020) and how it may relate to graduation parties.

Under the current Department of Health Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order, it is not permissible to have traditional graduation parties.

*Section #4 of the Director's Order **Prohibited activities.** "All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household and connected property, or living unit and connected property are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted in this Order. Any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited unless exempted by this Order. This is in accordance with President Trump's coronavirus guidelines issued March 16, 2020..."*

These precautions to limit the number of people gathering outside of their household unit is intended to continue to prevent a second spike of illness due to COVID-19. Many people are asymptomatic carriers and may unknowingly pass on the disease to vulnerable populations. People that should be extra cautious of large gatherings include:

- *People who are sixty-five years or older*
- *People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled:*
 - *Chronic lung disease*
 - *Moderate to severe asthma*
 - *Serious heart conditions*
 - *Immune compromised*
 - *Sever obesity (BMI>40)*
 - *Diabetes*
 - *Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis*
 - *Liver disease.*

Inviting a large number of family and friends that may include vulnerable people or visiting vulnerable people after attending a large gathering does put those vulnerable people at higher risk of contracting COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact (740) 203-2058 or at dkent@delawarehealth.org.

Please Stay Healthy,

Dustin A. Kent, MPH, RS
Residential Services Manager

Community Health • Environmental Health • Personal Health
Birth & Death Records • Women, Infant & Children (WIC)