COVID-19 INFORMATION
GUIDANCE FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES

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

| Attendees                                                                 | • Graduates, staff, faculty, volunteers, and ceremony attendees should use the self-assessment tool before attending.  
|                                                                          |   ○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend. |
| Ceremony Venue                                                          | • Ceremonies that take place in an auditorium or theatre setting are not allowed.  
|                                                                          | • Drive-in services may be held in designated parking lots or staging areas, and must meet the following conditions:  
|                                                                          |   ○ Event organizers must have measures in place to keep attendees from leaving their vehicles at the service.  
|                                                                          |   ○ Vehicles should be separated by a minimum of two metres.  
|                                                                          |   ○ Where washroom access is provided, frequent cleaning and disinfection must occur.  
|                                                                          |   ○ Attendees leaving their vehicles to use the washrooms must maintain a minimum of two metres of separation from others at all times. |
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| Logistics | Crossing the stage:  
|           | • Microphones should not be shared between speakers.  
|           | • Consider using a project or video equipment to ensure all attendees can see the procession.  
|           | • 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.  
|           | • Establish a one-way procession.  
|           | • 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).  
|           | • Designate a staff member or volunteer to take photos of graduates as they cross the stage.  
|           |   o Attendees should not approach the stage to get photos.  

| Support for Public Health | To enable contact tracing and follow-up, keep a listing of all graduates and attendees.  
|                          | Maintain an up-to-date contact list for all staff, faculty and volunteers who attend. |