

FAQ to support changes to the Public Health Act Order posted June 5, 2020

What is a community graduation celebration?

As of June 5, an exemption was announced under the Public Health Act order to allow community organizations, businesses or municipalities to hold celebrations to recognize graduates due to the loss of traditional graduation ceremonies.

Who can plan one of these events?

All celebrations of graduates must be held by a recognized business, municipality, or community organization (like a club, association, society, volunteer group, faith-based group, etc.) who is responsible for implementing public health protocols established by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for these events. As well, the local municipality, police, fire departments and EHS must be informed and supportive of the planned event.

Will students get their diplomas at these events?

Students will not get their diplomas at a community celebration event.

Each school is making arrangements for grade 12 graduates to get their diplomas individually, sometime between June 18-30. Schools have collaborated with school community members and public health to ensure graduates can be honoured in a safe way.

Do the community celebrations have to be outside?

Yes, community events must be held outside.

What other things should be in place to ensure these events don't spread COVID-19?

The full guidelines can be found at novascotia.ca/coronavirus/community-celebration-graduates. Here are a few highlights:

- all attendees must arrive in a vehicle and a single vehicle can only have people from a single household or household bubble
- graduates can be out of their vehicle to do things like cross a stage or take part in a parade of graduates as long as physical distance (2 metres or 6 feet) is maintained between all graduates while they are out of their vehicle
- graduates can have close contact (within 2 metres or 6 feet) only with people from their household or household bubble
- households and household bubbles must maintain a physical distance of 2 metres or 6 feet from other households and household bubbles
- there is no food or beverage service allowed at the event
- people who are feeling unwell should not attend

Is this exemption for community graduation celebrations time-limited?

Yes, the exemption is in place until end of June.

How do these organizations get support and approval from municipalities, police, fire, EHS?

Any organization who wishes to plan a celebration for graduates needs to reach out and work with these supports at the local level.