

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2021

Navajo Department of Health presents guidelines for limited graduations and promotions

Safe practices to protect attendees, students from COVID-19

The Navajo Department of Health released a set of guidelines for graduation and promotion events that all schools must follow to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 during upcoming gatherings.

Every school on the Navajo Nation is expected to understand and implement these guidelines, as well as clearly convey them to students, parents and families, and school staff.

The safety guidelines from NDOH allow for limited in-person outdoor graduation events for high school seniors and college or university graduates. All other grade levels must conduct their promotion ceremonies through digital/virtual or drive-thru options.

Prior to attending or participating in a graduation or promotion ceremony, it is strongly recommended that a guest:

- Be fully or partially vaccinated,
- Not currently isolating due to a possible COVID-19 exposure or positive test result,
- Not currently experiencing symptoms of COVID-19,
- Not have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the previous two weeks.

The following guidelines should be enforced on the day of the graduation or promotion ceremony:

- Any guest who is awaiting a COVID test result should not participate in any gathering.
- Guests and students who are participating in a gathering but have not been fully or partially vaccinated should seek a COVID test within 24-48 hours prior to participating.
- Participants in any gathering should continue to wear a mask (if guests do not have one, the school must provide them), wash their hands at provided stations, and keep their distance from others.
- Attendees must pre-register prior to an in-door gathering, and they must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms using Center for Disease Control guidelines prior to entering.
- Schools must maintain a record of all participants for contact tracing if positive COVID test results appear after a gathering. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently, and graduates must be spaced 6 feet apart from other students or attendees.

For a list of the full guidelines, visit the NDOH website at: [covid guideline graduation 2021 \(navajo-nnsn.gov\)](https://www.navajonnsn.gov/covid-guideline-graduation-2021)

By understanding and following these guidelines, Navajo Nation students and their families will be able to enjoy their graduation ceremonies while minimizing the risk of contracting COVID-19.

The Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education extends a heartfelt congratulations to all new graduates. This has been a challenging year for everyone, but we want you to know how proud your families, schools, and communities are of your accomplishments. We wish our graduates the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021!