

May 7, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian of a Graduate:

Franklin County Public Health 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 would like to take this opportunity to provide some guidance on graduation parties, particularly as it relates to the Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order (May 1, 2020) and remind you that gatherings of more than 10 people are not permitted at this time.

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 will prevent a spike of illness due to COVID-19. Many people are asymptomatic carriers and may unknowingly pass on the virus to vulnerable populations. People that should be extra cautious include:

- People who are 65 or older
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions such as:
 - Chronic lung disease
 - Moderate to severe asthma
 - Serious heart conditions
 - Immune compromised
 - Severe obesity (BMI >40)
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - Liver disease

Please keep our most vulnerable safe during this unprecedented time by limiting your celebrations to no more than 10 people, or even better by finding creative ways to celebrate virtually with friends and loved ones.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff Gibbs at jeffgibbs@franklincountyohio.gov. Additional information about COVID-19 is available at covid-19.myfcph.org.

Sincerely,



Nichole D. Lemin, MS, RS/REHS, MEP
Assistant Health Commissioner
Director of Environmental Health