



# Soledad High School Graduation Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021

# California has issued Guidance specific to Graduations & Commencements

**Across all Tiers:** All commencement ceremonies must adhere to the following requirements and modifications:

- All attendees, including school staff, performers, students and families are counted toward any occupancy capacity limit.
- If multiple ceremonies are planned for a single day, schools must allow for at least **two hours** between ceremonies to prevent mixing across attendees.
- Limit attendee groups to a household unit. People from the same household do not need to be six feet apart.
- Audience seating must be fixed or marked, with readily identifiable signs to indicate by section, row, and seat. Marked seats should clearly define space for individuals with appropriate space per person (no blanket reservations or group areas).

All commencement ceremonies shall adhere to attendance limitations as defined within the current [CDPH Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances Guidance](#). Outdoor, in-person ceremonies are permissible, consistent with this guidance.

# Individual Control Measures and Screening

Adhere to [CDPH Guidance for Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances](#) for necessary mitigation measures to protect performers, graduates, and audience members.

- All attendees must wear masks as per [CDPH Face Coverings Guidance](#) and maintain distance of at least 6 feet from other attendees at all times, other than with household members such as when they are in their own vehicles.
  - Speakers may remove masks during their remarks as long as they are at least 6 feet away from other attendees. Speakers should keep the time for comments brief to limit the time they are unmasked.
- Attendance must be limited to school staff, graduates, household members, and family members and attendees must abide by travel limitations as indicated within the current [CDPH Travel Advisory](#).
  - Attendees must sign up in advance of the graduation, and only those who have preregistered may attend.
  - Staff or attendants must monitor the number of attendees entering the graduation event and confirm that they had pre-registered.
- Persons who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) should be discouraged from attending.
- Individuals who are sick or in isolation or quarantine must remain at home.

# Entering/Exiting

- Encourage the orderly arrival and exiting of attendees in a manner that encourages social distancing.
  - Graduates must enter and exit 6 feet apart from one another in a single line.
- Social distancing measures include:
  - Signage or pavement/ground markings should be posted to have one-way aisles or otherwise direct attendees to follow certain pathways for entering and exiting from the graduation service to ensure social distancing.
  - If a line forms outside of the graduation, staff should direct those waiting to maintain social distancing.
  - Tape, chalk, or other markings should be laid on the ground outside of the venue in order to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.
  - Staff should direct people to help maintain social distancing.
  - Staff should direct successive, row-by-row exiting.

# Before, During, and After the Event

- Staff should enforce face covering compliance throughout the event.
- The venue must be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after the event, particularly high touch surfaces (e.g., bathrooms). Consider cleaning high-touch surfaces (e.g., podium) between each speaker. Clean and disinfect shared equipment (e.g., microphones) between different users; consult equipment manufacturers regarding the appropriate method.
- There must be permanent or added barriers to create at least 12' between space occupied by event attendees and the focal point (e.g., stage/podium). All attendees, including graduates, school administrators, guests or family members, must remain at least 6 feet apart at all times.
  - Attendees who are not part of the same household must be seated at least 6 feet apart. Members of the same household are permitted to sit together and less than 6 feet apart.
  - If there is permanent seating, rows should be blocked off and kept empty to allow for sufficient distancing between rows.
  - Graduates must be seated 6 feet apart.
- Mark 6-foot sections to help attendees understand what 6 feet looks like. This can be done with small flags, tape, balloons, etc. Indicate that people should stand on or by the markers and remain 6 feet from each other.
- To comply with the 6-foot spacing, handshaking and hugs should not occur.
- Consider limiting the sharing or exchanging of materials (such as throwing graduation caps, "sign-in" practices, programs, gifts, flowers).
- Districts and schools should, if possible, send students diplomas and caps and gowns in advance through the mail or delivery so they can arrive dressed and with their diplomas in hand.
- Graduates may be invited to walk across the stage individually and turn their tassel in lieu of receiving the diploma. Alternatively, diplomas and awards could be distributed if bestowing the awards and diplomas is done in a manner that reduces contact (e.g., placing each diploma and award on a table as the graduate walks by to retrieve it). Or, hand hygiene should be performed before and after touching objects and should be available in the appropriate locations.

# In-Person Graduation at SHS Under the Orange Tier

Working from the standpoint that Gene Martin Stadium has a capacity of 1,200 we would be able to have an in-person graduation with approximately 400 guests in the bleachers. As we are currently making plans for 360 graduates if we were to take this number into thirds, each graduating cohort would have 120 students. Each graduating senior would be allotted four tickets for graduation to share with whom they chose. These numbers include making use of the Reserved Seating typically found along the track in folding chairs.

Under the Orange Tier, there must be at least 2 hours in between ceremonies for the bleachers to be disinfected. Ceremonies could be scheduled at 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 3:00 PM. The ceremony would be modified to include Val/Sal speeches only during the group in which they were themselves graduating. Other modifications would need to be determined once it is concluded that in-person graduation would take place.

# Drive Through Graduation at SHS Under the Orange Tier

Soledad High School participated in a drive-through graduation for the previous year. We would propose that if this model is selected, we continue with what was completed last year with specific improvements suggested by students, parents, and staff at our community meetings, most of which focused upon the number of decorations available along the route.

# Hybrid Graduation at SHS Under the Orange Tier

If we were to present both of these options to our families, and allow them to decide whether they wanted to participate in either the in-person or the drive through graduation, we could have a mixture of the two ceremonies. Depending upon the numbers for each, there could be two in-person and one drive through or vice versa. The difficulty with the hybrid approach would be in the planning of the day (which would be held when) and the extra cost and time associated with needing to prepare two different locations for the same activity.

# Next Steps

- Talk with your families about the pros and cons of each type of graduation.
- Monday, April 26 a survey will be distributed to each senior's family asking which form of graduation they would like to participate in.
- Survey results will be due by Friday, April 30
- Those who do not respond to the survey, will receive a phone call asking for their input
- Once all senior families have responded a decision will be made and more details will follow