

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

FINAL VERSION

GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES
MAY 2021

Gatherings are permitted in educational settings, provided the reopening plan and the health guidelines in force are respected.

Ceremonies celebrating the end of students' studies (e.g. graduation or recognition ceremonies) are permitted, provided the reopening plan and the health guidelines in force are respected. Each institution has the option of organizing creative activities that celebrate their students reaching the end of their current educational path.

Activities may take place under the following conditions:

- An activity must take place at the educational institution (indoors or outdoors). It is not permitted to hold activities in reception areas or auditoriums that are not located on the premises of an institution.
- All activities must take place during class hours.
- Only students and school staff members may participate in an activity. (In order to respect the health guidelines and limit contacts, parents may follow an activity using alternative methods, such as a livestream or video recording).
- Special end-of-studies activities for graduating students are permitted, but they must take place at the institution and within the same class group only.
- Photos may only be taken with the same class group.
- Activities involving the signing of yearbooks must respect the physical distancing guidelines. Students must bring their own pens to sign their peers' yearbooks.
- Indoor and outdoor activities may bring together more than one class group, provided that a physical distance of two metres is maintained between each group and the following measures are respected:
 - For indoor activities, the largest rooms available at the institution must be used to welcome a certain number of class groups at a time, making sure that the guidelines concerning room capacity and physical distancing between class groups are respected.
 - For outdoor activities taking place on institution premises, students must be separated by class group, with physical distancing maintained between each group.

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Here are two non-exhaustive examples of activities that respect these guidelines:

Example of an indoor activity

The day of the graduation ceremony, students are welcomed to the school's auditorium, where the staff members have already gathered. Students are seated with their stable class group, with a physical distance of 2 metres between the different groups. While most of the students and staff members remain in their respective seats, presentations are made to highlight the graduates' accomplishments, and awards and diplomas are handed out. This procedure may repeat for the various groups until all students have taken part in it. The activity may be livestreamed to provide parents with access from a distance. The same day, students take part in special activities within their stable class groups.

Example of an outdoor activity

The day of the graduation ceremony, staff members form an honour guard outside the school, while, over the speaker system, the names of the individual students are called, and they are invited to come outside and join their stable class group in the school yard where chairs have already been set up. The staff members applaud the graduates and the students who are already outside. The ceremony continues outdoors with a presentation by the principal, a number of speeches, and other celebratory activities. Students are encouraged to remain seated with their stable class group. Outdoor photos are then taken of the various stable class groups.

School teams are invited to draw inspiration from these examples to determine how to best proceed with activities at their respective institution.

Proms are not permitted.