To: Superintendents, Local School Districts in Franklin County  
From: Joe Mazzola, MPA, Health Commissioner  
CC: Dr. Miller Sullivan, Medical Director  
RE: High School Graduation Events  
Date: April 30, 2020

Dear Superintendents,

In response to the recent public dialogue regarding high school graduation events, as the local health department that serves your school district, Franklin County Public Health is offering the following guidance.

The Ohio Department of Education issued initial guidance and has since updated its guidance regarding high school graduation ceremonies. Governor DeWine strongly encourages our school districts to host virtual graduation ceremonies and events. We understand that our high school seniors and their families deserve to have their accomplishments recognized. And though these events are important, Franklin County Public Health agrees with Governor DeWine and strongly recommends only virtual events be hosted by our school districts.

We are aware other options such as drive-in ceremonies or events with 10 or fewer people at a time are acceptable by the state. However Franklin County Public Health strongly discourages those options. Should school districts choose not to follow Governor DeWine’s first recommendation and host such an event, districts must take the necessary precautions in accordance with Franklin County Public Health.

As of April 29, in Franklin County, there are 2,216 confirmed/probable cases, 335 hospitalizations and 71 deaths attributed to COVID-19. Our community is still experiencing a significant outbreak with new cases being reported daily. We thank our school districts for their continued engagement regarding COVID-19 and their careful consideration in determining how best to keep their families, students and community safe regarding graduation activities.

1 [http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Graduation-and-Recognition-Ceremonies]