



London N. Breed
Mayor

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH
Health Officer

May 6, 2020

Dear Educational Leaders:

We have received inquiries about whether it is permissible under the current health orders for a high school to hold a drive-in graduation ceremony, where the students and members of their household stay in their own cars and the cars remain at least six feet apart from one another at all times.

Unfortunately, due to the state of the pandemic, the answer is no at this time. These ceremonies are large gatherings outside of a household that are not allowed under the current order. There are many potential health risks that such a gathering could pose, such as people getting out of their cars to use the bathroom or for other purposes; rolling down their car windows to get fresh air, hear a program or talk with others; and the handing out of diplomas to graduates. By contrast, certain limited outdoor activities like going to the beach are allowed so that individuals can continue to engage in healthy and safe recreation activities that do not involve the risks of large gatherings of this sort. Still, we recognize the disappointment this restriction causes for students and their families. We will continue to monitor the situation to see whether ceremonies of this sort may occur later this summer if health conditions warrant doing so and there are adequate guidelines in place to ensure the ceremonies may be conducted safely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tomás Aragón".

Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH
Health Officer, City & County of San Francisco
San Francisco Department of Public Health