



TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

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"Promoting Health & Preventing Disease Since 1967"

5/20/20

To: Francine Coss, Superintendent
Thomaston Public Schools

RE: Thomaston High School Graduation options

Good Afternoon Superintendent Coss,

I received your letter dated May 19, 2020 outlining four potential options for the Thomaston High school Graduation Ceremony. Per your request TAHD has reviewed the four options and offers the following recommendations.

Option 1 – Virtual Ceremony From a Public Health Perspective this option is the safest option for the staff, students, and the community. This would pose the least public health risk!

Option 2 - Enhanced Virtual Ceremony This option could be approvable if staff and students are wearing masks except for the student's photo. We do not recommend indoor ceremonies because if you were to have an asymptomatic person walk through the building, he/she could potentially infect the air and surfaces for others creating a Public Health Risk for students and staff. Per the CDC the virus could stay suspended in the air for hours.

Option 3 – Enhanced Virtual Ceremony (outdoor mascot) This option is also favorable from a public health perspective. I would recommend that students and staff wear masks except for the photo op. This outdoor option eliminates the risk of contaminating the air and/or building surfaces that could potentially pose a risk to other students and staff.

Option 4 – In Person This option could also be approvable with stipulations. Students would again be asked to wear masks except for the photo. Staff must also wear face masks. Portable bathrooms should be considered for the event along with handwash stations spread well apart. Consideration should also be taken to how to regulate people staying in their vehicles and not congregating (i.e.: police presence)

Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions. I look forward to reviewing your final proposal and Good luck to the graduating seniors.

Respectfully,

Robert Rubbo; MPH, R.S.
Director of Health

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