



School District Outdoor Events and End-of-Year Activities

As you know, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) have previously issued [recommendations to help school districts plan outdoor events and end-of-year activities, such as graduation](#). With the release of [updated guidance](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the very low risk of COVID-19 to fully vaccinated individuals and their ability to begin participating in many activities without wearing a mask, as well as Connecticut's updated protocols for mask use, questions have come up regarding the rules around graduation ceremonies and other end-of-year activities.

On May 19th, the DPH released a [new guidance document](#) that includes the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 vaccinations, masking, social distancing, and individual risk. The recommendations established in that document are appropriate to use when planning school district outdoor end-of-year events *that are held outdoors*. School administrators are invited to review that new guidance document as they plan any outdoor end-of-year activities, and to be in frequent contact with their local public health officials to help inform them in making decisions regarding operational procedures for these events that work best for their individual situations. Of note, if schools are choosing to change their original operational plans for events, and especially if mitigation strategies that were planned as requirements will now be made optional, it will be most important to communicate to all participants what to expect if they choose to attend, as some who plan to attend may continue to anticipate that all mitigation strategies will be employed, even outdoors.

In the interest of protecting in-person learning, to the extent possible, for the remainder of this school year, districts operating indoor events either inside the school building or at another indoor venue off-campus should continue to incorporate the layered mitigation strategies that have been incorporated throughout the school year. School districts that are interested in additional strategies to assist with COVID-19 risk mitigation during specific events (either indoors or outdoors) are still invited to incorporate any of the optional measures outlined in the guidance document [Interim Considerations for End-of-Year School Events - Spring 2021](#), released jointly by DPH and the CSDE on April 9, 2021.