

Alvord ISD Family:

We are very excited to announce our plans to honor our graduates. The class of 2020 graduation ceremony will be on Friday, May 22 at 8 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium. Gates will open at 7 p.m. If weather interferes the graduation will be moved to Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 p.m. These times and dates are subject to change depending on the weather.

We are subject to a list of requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please read this information carefully as everyone attending the graduation ceremony will be responsible for following the requirements from the state explained below.

School districts hosting and outdoor, in person graduation ceremony are required to cap the number of those in attendance to ensure social distancing. Each graduate will receive a limited number of tickets. The graduates have been sent an email explaining the details of the ticket process.

The graduation ceremony will be broadcast for those who are unable to attend.

Each guest must sign their entry ticket confirming that they meet all health requirements and agree to comply with all social distancing requirements (see STATE OUTDOOR CEREMONY GUIDELINES below). Individuals with underlying health conditions are discouraged from attending.

The graduates will be seated on the field facing the stage. Guests who bring a lawn chair can sit behind the graduates in a designated area. Guests can also sit in the home or visitor stands. In all these seating locations, guests must adhere to the state guidelines on social distancing.

Face masks or coverings are encouraged but not required. Hand sanitizer stations will be available.

All in attendance must maintain social distance from others while arriving, during, and while leaving the graduation ceremony. Please be patient and courteous.

Guests can park in the parking lot south of the stadium or the student parking lot north of the high school. The parking areas west of the stadium and behind the middle school are reserved for the graduates and staff working the graduation ceremony.

Guests can enter at two entrances from the parking lot south of the stadium. Those who park in the student parking lot north of the high school can enter the stadium through the gate to the concession stand.

Guests will not be allowed to move during the ceremony to get in a better position to take pictures. Deann and Larry Nivens will be taking pictures of each graduate which will be posted on Facebook.

At the end of the ceremony the graduates will be honored with a short fireworks show. The graduates will then be dismissed and exit the stadium first. The guests will then be dismissed by seating area in order to allow for social distancing at the exits.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Let's work together to make this event special as we honor our very deserving Alvord High School class of 2020.

#### STATE OUTDOOR GRADUATION CEREMONY GUIDELINES

Be advised, this permission is subject to change as underlying public health conditions change.

Outdoor ceremonies must meet the following requirements:

- School systems must cap the number of total participants (inclusive of students, families, and staff) to a level that can be managed in the outdoor venue to maximize social distancing, both during the event and during entry and exit.
- Prior to attending the ceremony, participating students and attending family members must be screened (via questioning) by school system employees for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19: Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat, Loss of taste or smell, Diarrhea, Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 if exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within the last 14 days. Those found with any of these signs or symptoms must be excluded from the activity.
- Graduates or promoting students may only be brought together for one event per class or breakout group. No rehearsals will be permitted.
- Keep 6 feet or more of spacing between all participants, except that members of the same household (five individuals or fewer, excluding the graduate if seated with the household) may be allowed to sit together in the audience but must be at least 6 feet away from any other family group at all times.
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations must be available at all venue entrances.
- School employees at the ceremony must be limited to the minimum number needed to logistically support the ceremony.
- Diplomas or other documents may not be handed from person to person unless gloves are worn by those distributing diplomas or other documents to students.

- Consistent with the actions taken by many institutions across the state, consider having all employees, students, or other visitors wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) while inside any facilities, or if they will come within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of that person's household, except when photos are taken. If available, they should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.
- Care should be taken and effort must be made to mitigate virus exposure when participants come into contact with documents and other objects such as diplomas and awards.
- School employees must be stationed appropriately to ensure compliance with all requirements and to limit congregation.
- A robust communication plan must be in place to address steps to be taken before, during, and after the ceremony to ensure that participants are aware of safety protocols at the ceremony and explicit instructions to graduates or promoting students not to congregate outside of school sponsored ceremonies or events.
- School officials should communicate with students' families prior to the ceremony to determine how many family members will be attending so they can plan appropriately to implement social distancing measures, logistics, and other safety measures.
- Assigned seating for members of the audience should be considered to more efficiently ensure separation between household groups.
- Specific plans should be developed for arrivals and departures to ensure appropriate social distancing.