

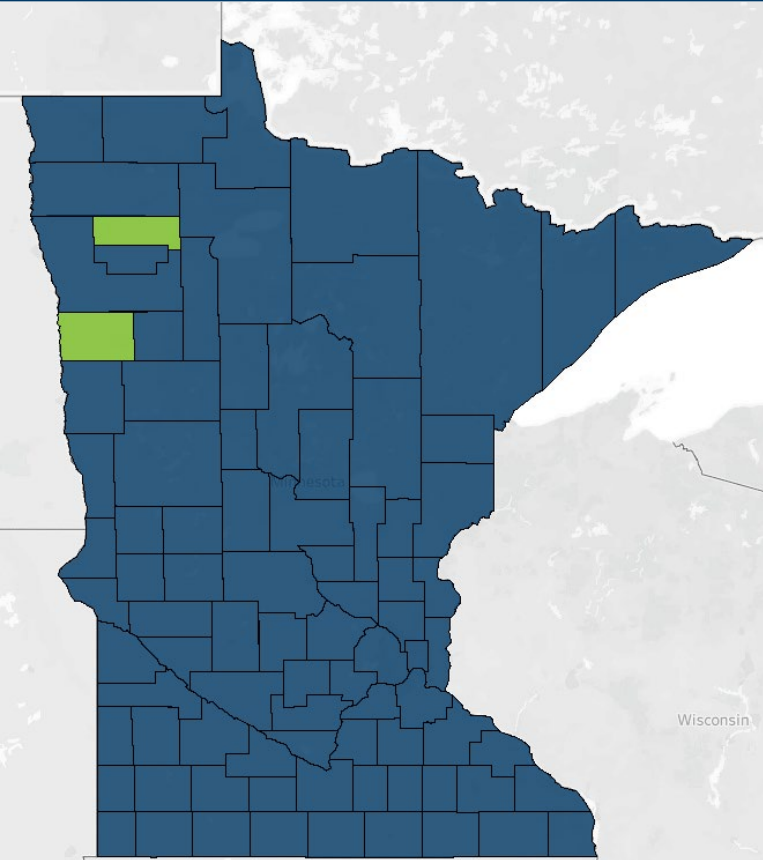
Proms and Graduations

March 24, 2021

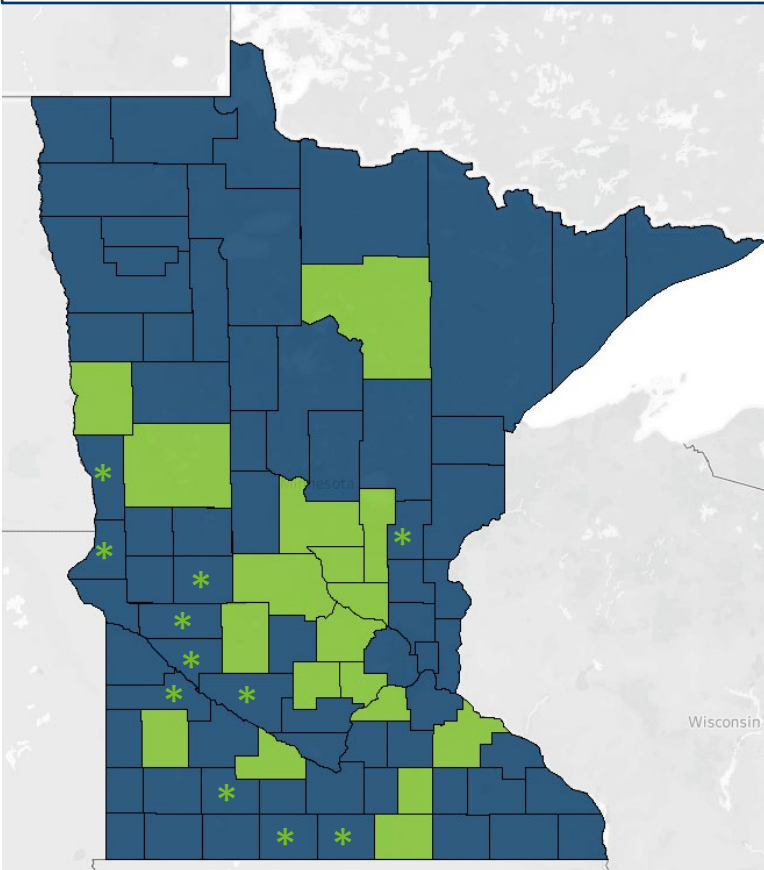
STAY SAFE **MN**

Many counties in MN experiencing high levels of case growth

As of February 19, 2021



As of March 19, 2021



- Green counties (18 currently, 2 in mid-February):
 - 50% increase in cases from 4 weeks ago
 - At Least 50 cases in the past week (25 in counties < 10,000)
 - Weekly Case Rate of 15 cases per 10,000
- An additional 11 counties currently have weekly case rate of 20 per 10,000 (indicated with *)
- 10 of 18 Green counties have a known B.1.1.7 case

Face coverings

- Face-coverings required for everyone indoors, and everyone at outdoor venues.
- Everyone must be seated whenever eating or drinking.
 - Assigned seating accommodation
 - Designated area



Prom and Graduation Venue Guidance Rules

STAY SAFE MN

Capacity caps – Vary depending on size of venue.

All food and beverage consumption must end at 11:00pm

You must be seated if you are eating or drinking

Groups of six must have at least six feet of social distancing

Dancing is allowed, but groups must be at least SD6

Large venues

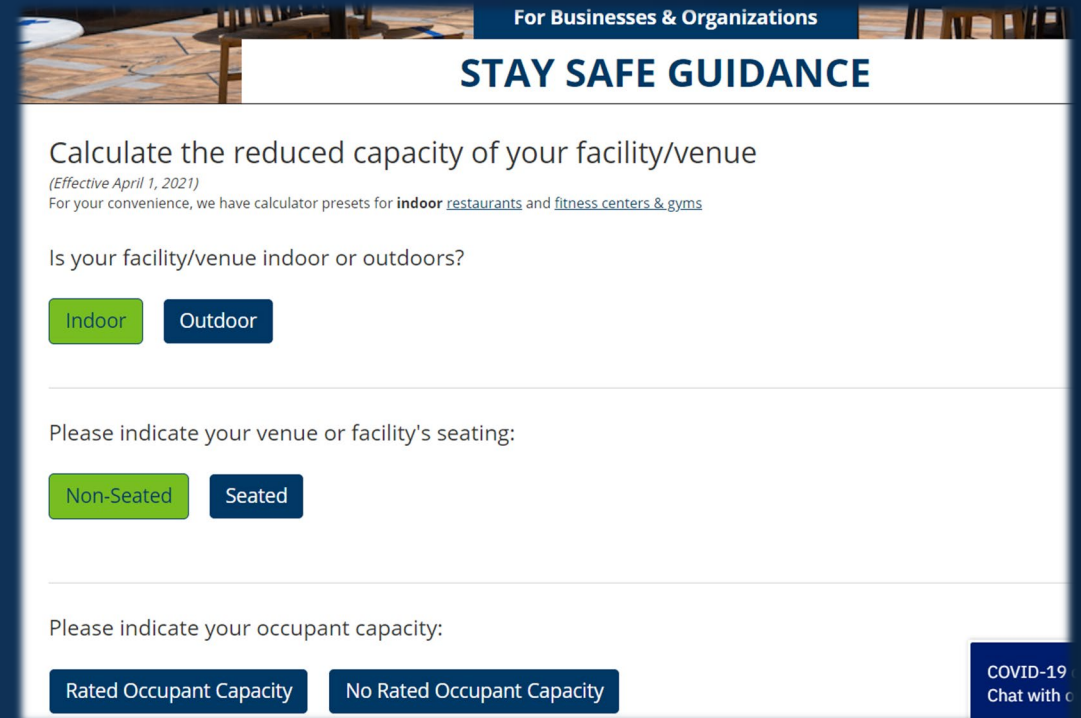
- **All venues on March 15:** Open at 50%, up to 250 people max.
- **Larger venues** add additional capacity on April 1:
 - **Non-seated indoor:** 10% of capacity over 500. Max 1,500.
 - **Seated indoor:** 15% of capacity over 500. Max 3,000.
 - **Non-seated outdoor:** 15% of capacity over 500. Max 10,000.
 - **Seated outdoor:** 25% of capacity over 500. Max 10,000.
- Maximum capacities apply to the entire venue.
- *Capacities must always be reduced if social distancing cannot be maintained.*

Capacity Calculator

This can help calculate the reduced capacity of a facility/ venue.

- Must use “rated occupant capacity”
- If no rated occupant capacity, use 113 sq. ft. per person

<https://staysafe.mn.gov/capacity-calculator/>



The screenshot shows the 'STAY SAFE GUIDANCE' section of the capacity calculator. It includes a header 'For Businesses & Organizations', a title 'Calculate the reduced capacity of your facility/venue', and a note '(Effective April 1, 2021)'. Below this, there are three questions with radio button options: 'Is your facility/venue indoor or outdoors?' (Indoor/Outdoor), 'Please indicate your venue or facility's seating:' (Non-Seated/Seated), and 'Please indicate your occupant capacity:' (Rated Occupant Capacity/No Rated Occupant Capacity). A 'COVID-19 Chat with c' button is visible in the bottom right corner.

Venue Rules for Events Like Proms

- Dancing is allowed, but limited to groups of no more than six students
- Groups of six must stay at least six feet apart at all times
- Eating and drinking is allowed, but students must be seated in designated seating area.
- Masks must be worn at all times, if not eating or drinking
- Best practice: secure a venue with as much space as possible to maximize social distancing.

School-Based Strategies to Reduce Risk at Proms

Scheduling/Venue

- Later in the year
- After the school year
- Outdoor vs. Indoor

Reimagine the Grand March

- Masked
- Virtual

More School-Based Strategies to Reduce Risk at Proms

Limit Participants

- No guests from outside the school community
- Seniors only
- Separate events: senior prom, junior prom

Promote COVID-19 Screening

- All participants – with a ticket
- Before and after prom activities

Considerations for Graduation and Commencement

Virtual and hybrid events pose the least amount of risk and should be strongly considered as much as possible.









If in-person events are going to occur, the institution should strongly consider smaller graduation subgroups.

Consider creative ways to supplement virtual or hybrid events with swag, graduation boxes. Having special events around gown pick-up, etc..

LOWER YOUR RISK OF COVID-19

Wear a mask in public spaces, wash your hands, and stay 6 feet away from others.

← LOWER HIGHER →

Small group		Large group	
Outside		Inside	
Far apart		Close together	
Short time with others		Long time with others	

mi MINNESOTA | **STAY SAFE MN**

Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. 8/12/2020

Seated events like graduations or banquets

- Every patron has an individually allocated, reserved, or assigned seat.
- Groups of up to 6-people may sit together.
- Can include seats, benches, tables, or spaces on the ground.
- Advanced assignment is not required, but the seating location must be designated by the venue either prior to or at the time of arrival.
- Patrons **must** remain seated while in attendance.

CAUTION against classifying graduates as ‘performers’

Implications of this model for graduation ceremonies

- Essentially, this establishes two groups that can never cross paths.
- Graduates and support people/parents would not be able to interact or unite within the venue at all.
- Separating graduates from spectators by calling graduates “performers” could introduce more limitations than benefits.

Reminders about Commencement/Graduation Parameters

- Families must maintain 6 foot social distancing from other families both before, during, and after the event.
- Families can't intermix with each other unless they arrive and sit together as part of a "group of six."
- Graduates and spectator/guests should not linger after the graduation/commencement event
- Diploma – touchless, diplomas on a table, SD6

COVID-19 Mitigation for School Events-Social Distancing

- Social gatherings are higher risk because you have less control of people movement as compared to students in desks in the classroom.
- Social distancing 6 feet between persons or between assigned groups of 6 persons
- Consider traffic flow in all spaces such as entering and exiting the venue, use of restrooms, food areas, etc.
- Signage, floor markings etc.

COVID-19 Mitigation for School Events-Screening

- People with symptoms, pending test results or currently a close contact in quarantine should not be attending the event.
- Determine communication strategy to deliver the message?
- What type of screening will be required/offered prior to attending?
- Options could include asking participants to screen using the [Home Screening Tool:](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/homescreen.pdf)
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/homescreen.pdf>
- Can there be alternate virtual activity for those who can't attend?

COVID-19 Mitigation for School Events-Contact Tracing

Contact Tracing:

- It is the responsibility for the group/venue hosting the event.
- How will you keep track of attendance (entrance/exit/times)?
- Contact information for those who are not members of your school community.
- Consider putting attendees in small groups (limit 6) to lessen impacted should quarantine be necessary.
- Plan how you will interview those impacted by an exposure

COVID-19 Mitigation for School Events

Ventilation

- Review the ventilation guidance
- Consider opening doors or windows (weather permitting)
- Consider adding HEPA air filters to the space.

Cleaning/Disinfection

- Ensure high touch surfaces are being disinfected before, during timed intervals and after the event.
- Monitor restrooms and food areas during the event and clean as needed.
- Consider provide stations with hand sanitizer at entrances, throughout the venue and where food is served.

STAY SAFE MN