

## **BILH Graduation Guidance (including Graduate Medical Education)**

Purpose: To provide guidance to BILH training programs for the planning of graduation celebrations in June 2021.

Graduation is an important milestone for our trainees and faculty, and traditionally these celebrations are a yearly highlight for departments. While BILH is committed to supporting these important milestones, we remain focused on the safety of our trainees, our community and our patients as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Fortunately, a very large percentage of trainees and our faculty are fully vaccinated and we appreciate that venues have developed protocols to further mitigate transmission risk. We are allowing graduation celebrations provided they are in alignment with the following guidelines.

### **1. Capacity limits**

- a. Programs must follow the [current Massachusetts guidance for indoor and outdoor gatherings](#).
- b. [Currently](#), the maximum number of attendees allowed is 100 persons indoors and 150 persons outdoors, with a [planned increase](#) as of May 29<sup>th</sup> to 200 and 250 respectively.
- c. Graduation gatherings may reach these limits if space permits adequate physical distancing.

### **2. Physical distancing**

- a. Outdoor venues are preferred.
- b. At BILH facilities: Gatherings indoors on campus at BILH facilities must meet usual BILH guidance on physical distancing.
- c. At outside facilities:
  - i. Gatherings at outside facilities must adhere to MA reopening guidance.
  - ii. The venue selected must be able to support reasonable physical distancing during the entire event.
- d. Photos of unmasked attendees cannot be taken indoors. Photos can be taken in outdoor settings of groups of unmasked graduates or one unmasked graduate with their own family member/significant other.

### **3. Attendees**

- a. Gatherings may include BILH employees, trainees and faculty.
- b. Additionally, each graduate may invite 1-2 significant others/family members as space permits, following MA and BILH guidance.
- c. All significant others/family members from out of state must follow the [current MA Travel Advisory](#).



- d. Any attendees who have symptoms within the 72 hours prior to the event are requested not to attend. Each program may determine its own process for ensuring this occurs for the safety of all attendees.
- e. Vaccination is strongly encouraged for all attendees but not required.
- f. Consider live streaming portions of the event so that others can still participate.

**4. Food and drink**

- a. Avoid serving stations where larger groups would gather; these may include buffets, hors d'oeuvres, or bars.
- b. Opt for plated or served food and drink.
- c. Eating and drinking should only occur at a table seating.

**5. Masking:** Masks should be worn at all times when not eating or drinking.