



HONORS CONVOCATION & COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ADVISORY MESSAGE

GUESTS – COMMENCEMENT WEBSITE – H1N1 VIRUS

Dear Graduate,

California State University, Northridge is taking every precaution to ensure this year's ceremonies are comfortable, enjoyable, memorable, and safe for all participants and guests. As we quickly approach this year's ceremonies, we would like to remind all attendees of the following messages.

Guests

University plans allow for each graduate to **have three to five guests in attendance**. Tickets will not be required; however, seats can **NOT** be reserved. Guests will be seated in chairs separated from the graduates. **No** guests will be permitted in the graduate seating area at any time. It is recommended that your guests allow ample time for parking and securing seats at the Commencement site.

Commencement Website and Alternative Viewing of Ceremonies

Typically, overflow crowds attend the large ceremonies held at 8:00 a.m. on the Oviatt Lawn site. Please encourage guests to avoid the crowds, parking challenges, and hot weather by viewing the ceremonies on-line at our Commencement website at www.csun.edu/commencement. This is a particularly good way for individuals with health challenges, including those discussed below, to view your ceremony in a more comfortable location. Ceremonies will be available in real-time and archived for a short period for future viewing. **Check the Commencement website for future updates.**

Precautions due to H1N1 Virus

We recognize that public gatherings of any kind, especially celebratory occasions like commencement, present the potential for personal contact. The University is aware that the H1N1 virus is a matter of public health concern and we are taking additional precautions to better ensure the health and safety of all who join us. We are paying careful attention to all advisories issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are pleased that the CDC is not currently recommending the cancellation of large events and ceremonies such as graduation exercises. However, pursuant to the Interim CDC Guidance for Public Gatherings in Response to Human Infections with Novel Influenza A (H1N1) all attendees at this year's Commencement ceremonies are advised of the following:

1. Persons with influenza-like illness (i.e., fever with either cough or sore throat) should stay home and avoid large crowds. Persons who are sick should limit their contact with other people as much as possible and stay home for 7 days after the onset of illness or at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved - whichever is longer.
2. Persons who are at high risk of complications from novel influenza A (H1N1) infection (for example, persons with certain chronic medical conditions, children less than 5 years, persons 65 or older, and pregnant women) should consider their risk of exposure to novel influenza if they attend public gatherings in communities where novel influenza A virus is circulating. In communities with several reported cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, persons who are at risk of complications from influenza should consider staying away from public gatherings.
3. All persons should use appropriate respiratory and hand hygiene precautions such as covering the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

Based on currently available information, for non-healthcare settings where frequent exposures to persons with novel influenza A (H1N1) are unlikely, masks and respirators are not recommended and can not be worn by graduates participating in our ceremonies. *For more information please visit: http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/public_gatherings.htm*

Congratulations on achieving this great milestone. We look forward to seeing you at your ceremony.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Watkins,

Associate Vice President and Dean of Students