

*****Please note that this message has been sent to the all-student listserv, but is only applicable to second year students slated to graduate (including Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 Graduates)*****

Dear Graduating Students,

Congratulations on your impending graduation. With less than one month away from graduation, the RSPH Commencement Team would like to provide you all with a few updates regarding the RSPH Diploma Ceremony scheduled for **Friday, May 14, 2021 at 9:00AM EST** in the Georgia World Congress Center. Participation in the RSPH Diploma Ceremony is **optional**, and the event will also be available via a livestream for all graduates and their loved ones.

Please read through this message very carefully, in its entirety. As a reminder, all updates and communications will also be posted on the [RSPH Graduation Website](#).

NEW INFORMATION

Announcing the 2021 Student Speaker

Thank you all for submitting your nominations for this year's Student Speaker, and congratulations to all who were nominated! This year, we had four finalists that submitted a draft of their speech. A committee consisting of graduating students and staff members reviewed all finalists' de-identified writing samples. **The 2021 RSPH Diploma Ceremony Student Speaker is Lul Mohamud.**

Individual Recognition at Graduation

Based on student feedback, we would like to share how individual recognition will take place at the RSPH Diploma Ceremony:

- When a graduate's name is called, they will walk across the stage with their diploma cover in-hand. Names may be called in quick succession to accommodate all graduates.
- As a graduate walks across the stage, a slide (with their name, photo, degree, and program) and live footage of the graduate crossing the stage will be displayed on multiple screens. A photographer will also capture your moment as you cross the stage.

Ordering Regalia

Masters of Public Health Regalia is still available to purchase online to be shipped to your home on the [Oak Hall Website](#). All online orders are due on **April 25, 2021**. Regalia may also be purchased at the Emory University Barnes and Noble Bookstore, and inventory will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. **All unopened regalia may be returned.**

If you have any questions about regalia, please contact Heather La Fleur at hlafleu@emory.edu or call 404-727-2731.

REMINDERS

Due April 22: RSPH Diploma Ceremony RSVP Form

If you have submitted a degree application, you have received an e-mail from commencement@commencement.emory.edu inviting you to RSVP to the RSPH Diploma Ceremony.

- Students who plan on attending the RSPH Diploma ceremony are *required* to RSVP and submit information for your graduation slide by **Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 11:59PM EST**.
- Graduates will receive their ticket, known as a **GradPass**, closer to the date of the ceremony.
- **Your health and safety is our top priority.** All graduates and guests that plan on participating in the ceremony are required to follow COVID-19 Protocols outlined on the [Commencement Website](#) and in the RSVP Form.

Logistics and student instructions for the RSPH Diploma Ceremony will be announced at a later date.

Due April 30: Graduation Gift Survey

The Rollins Student Government Association and the RSPH Alumni Office will be providing a graduation gift for our graduates! To receive your graduation gift, please complete [this form](#) below no later than midnight on **Friday, April 30**.

For your convenience, we will host an on-campus pick-up day in conjunction with the cap & gown photos being offered on **Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4**. If you are unable to pick-up your gift, you will have the opportunity to provide your mailing address on the form. Please note that we can only ship to US addresses.

RSPH Cap & Gown Portraits: May 3, 2021 – May 4, 2021

The Rollins School of Public Health and Village Photographers will be offering cap and gown portraits to all graduates on **Monday, May 3, 2021 and Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 9:00AM – 5:00PM EST** in the **Rollins Café**.

Students can sign up for a photography appointment [here](#).

- Participating in RSPH Cap & Gown Portraits is optional, with no pressure or obligation to purchase photos.
- Students must bring their own regalia for the photography session.
- Students must have completed all [onboarding and weekly testing requirements](#) prior to their scheduled appointment.
- Students must abide by all health and safety protocol outlined by the [Emory Community Compact](#).

Thank you very much, and congratulations again!

Sincerely,

Joanne

Joanne Williams, MPH, CHES

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Pronouns: (She/Her/Hers)