

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Protocol for Public Demonstrations

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to allow for people to start to use public spaces again in ways that will limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

As an individual, it is within your right to engage in political expression, including, your right to petition the government. It is preferable at this time to use online and broadcasting platforms in place of in-person gatherings because even if you adhere to physical distancing, bringing members of different households together to engage in in-person protest carries a higher risk of widespread transmission of COVID-19. Such gatherings may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. Activities like chanting, shouting, singing, and group recitation can cancel out the risk-reduction achieved through six feet of physical distancing. For this reason, **people engaging in these activities should wear face coverings at all times.**

If you chose to participate in an in person gathering it is crucially important that you follow these public health requirements below in order to take part in protests and demonstrations in a way that keeps you and others healthy.

### Public Health Requirements:

1. Prepare before you participate.
  - a. Plan your route to and from the demonstration. Know which streets may be closed to traffic or street parking and what public transportation routes may have been rerouted.
  - b. Mobility aids such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers, or baby strollers should be allowed, but check with the organizers and police to see if there are any restrictions, precautions, or alternate routes.
  - c. Bring any necessary supplies with you including food, water, hand sanitizer and any other personal supplies you may need.
2. Maintain a six foot distance from others that are not part of your household or living unit.
  - a. Participants should maintain a physical distance of six feet from any uniformed peace officers and other public safety personnel present, unless otherwise directed, and follow all other requirements and directives imposed by law enforcement or other applicable authorities.
3. Attendance is limited to 25% of the relevant area's maximum occupancy, as defined by the relevant local permitting authority or other relevant authority, or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower
4. Avoid areas where the crowd may be congested. If the crowd becomes tight make your way to the periphery and away from areas of congestion.
5. Wear a cloth face covering at all times.
6. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

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7. Do not share beverages or food with others that are not in your household.

### Know where to get reliable information

Beware of scams, false news and hoaxes surrounding novel coronavirus. Accurate information, including announcements of new cases in LA County, will always be distributed by Public Health through press releases, social media, and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics and a guide to coping with stress, as well as tips on handwashing

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
  - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
  - Social media: @lapublichealth

Other reliable sources of information about novel coronavirus are:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
  - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.