



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROTESTING IN A PANDEMIC

June 4, 2020 - Political protest gatherings are a vital form of political expression in a democracy, and are one of the only forms of gatherings currently permitted in California under the Stay at Home Order and the Resilience Roadmap for re-opening (religious gatherings and services are also permitted).

There are real concerns that the protests around the state and the country will accelerate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In the media we all have seen protesters, police, and soldiers too close together, some wearing face coverings and others not.

The California Department of Public Health has issued guidance for protesting during the pandemic urging participants to maintain a six-foot distance from each other and to wear face coverings, as well as hand hygiene. Outdoor protests should be limited to 100 people, although it may not be possible to control crowd sizes in some cases.

People planning to participate in protests should remember that many people may be infected without knowing it (asymptomatic) and that singing and shouting can spread more virus over a greater distance. This expression creates a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission, even if participants are trying to maintain their distance from others.

The COVID-19 Unified Command Emergency Operations Center urges residents to protest with awareness and concern for self and community.

Distance. Wash. Cover and Be Kind.

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