

GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS

Overview

This document has been developed to support organizers and participants of public demonstrations for a protest or political purpose, including rallies and marches, in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including organizers, participants, volunteers, and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control requirements, specific to these settings and activities.

Protests without limit to the number of persons in attendance may only occur at an outdoor public place in accordance with the CMOH Order 29-2021, and the guidance in this document, per CMOH Order 25-2020. Such protests are not permitted at either an indoor or private place at this time.

In all settings, it is important that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to ensuring: masking, physical distancing, barrier use (where appropriate), proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals must follow Order 29-2021 when participating in public demonstrations and protests. • In-person rallies, marches and demonstrations should have a responsible person (e.g., organizer) to ensure compliance with this guidance and current public health measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there is no organizer, participants should follow this guidance, to the extent possible. • Organizers should develop a plan to minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19 at the demonstration, rally or march. Plans should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mandatory masking of all attendees; ○ Facilitating physical distancing of all attendees (except caregivers accompanied by children under 12 years); ○ Measures to facilitate contact tracing (e.g., having individuals “sign up” to attend); and ○ Consideration for managing large groups of people in public spaces, including the use of public washrooms • Participants should be encouraged to attend via alternative means, wherever possible (e.g., virtual participation). • Organizers should inform attendees of the steps that are being taken to prevent the risk of transmission in advance (e.g., through social media, email, or other platforms). • Before attending the event, organizers should remind attendees to check themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate participation while limiting in-person attendance, and to support individuals who are quarantining or in isolation, the organizers should consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have virtual attendees/groups be represented by a single person. ○ Stream the event for the group to virtually participate. ○ Hold virtual protests, where attendees are able to participate from their homes or previously identified common spaces. ○ Consider drive-in alternatives.
<p>Notifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one week prior to the event, the organizer should contact and give notice to the local: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alberta Health Services - Environmental Public Health regarding the plan and number of attendees; and ○ Law enforcement agency regarding their event. • Organizers should also consider contacting their municipal or other local government, as appropriate.
<p>In-Person Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants, organizers and presenters/speakers must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ remain outdoors except where necessary to use the washroom; ○ wear a face mask correctly at all times during the event; ○ maintain 2 m distance from all other individuals, unless that other person is eleven years of age or younger and is a member of the person’s household (a parent/responsible adult need not distance from their child(ren)); ○ immediately disperse in a coordinated fashion at the conclusion of the demonstration or protest. • Sharing, distributing or purchasing of food and beverages is not permitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If an attendee needs to provide food or drink to another attendee, both should temporarily leave the event and return afterwards. ○ Food and beverages are not permitted to be consumed at the event. • Reinforce physical distancing requirements for the event verbally and via signage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discourage physical contact (e.g., hand holding/linking of arms). ○ Discourage sharing of signs or other items. • Items should not be distributed to participants or passed between them. • Organizers should promote frequent and proper hand hygiene for all participants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inform participants they should bring and using hand sanitizer (with greater than 60% alcohol content). • Consider alternates to chanting or “call and response” shouting, to reduce droplet spread between attendees. • Encourage clapping and non-aerosolizing noise makers (i.e. do not

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	<p>require attendees to blow into them) such as pots and pans, cowbells, or clackers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance activities must adhere to current public health measures for that region.
Vehicle Rallies, Convoys and Demonstrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If participants gather in an area prior to the start of the event, consider having:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the meeting space large enough to allow for physical distancing within and between vehicles;○ multiple staging areas; or○ groups start at different locations along the route to limit individuals in the staging area.• Participants should remain inside their vehicles for the entirety of the procession.• Communication to participants should be done by virtual means (e.g., social media), radio, telecommunication, etc.• Participants are required to follow all applicable traffic laws, bylaws, etc.• Any demonstrations or protests done in a drive-in model must also follow the specifications in current CMOH Orders, as amended from time to time, and any relevant guidance, including the Guidance for Drive-In Events.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: May 2021

