



Political Protests - Summary

Consistent with the guidance released from the State earlier this week, the Mendocino County Health Officer has modified her Shelter in Place orders to allow in-person political protests.

The activities authorized in this order present the highest health risk of any activity authorized to date. Protest organizers are strongly encouraged to engage in political expression utilizing alternative channels, such as online and broadcasting platforms available in the digital age. Should they choose to hold in-person protests, all protest participants must wear facial coverings unless they are unable to do so for health-related reasons or due to barriers to access.

Necessary Safety Measures

Persons may engage in political protests under the Shelter in Place Order. However, certain limitations, provided by the County and State, must be followed. The County Health Officer also strongly encourages those exercising their right to engage in political expression utilize alternative channels, such as online and broadcasting platforms available in the digital age.

Those engaging in in-person protests must limit attendance to 25% of the relevant area's maximum capacity as defined by local permitting authority. Physical distancing of at least 6-feet must be maintained at all times between all protest participants, and between protest participants and other individuals, including law enforcement, unless otherwise directed by law enforcement or other applicable authorities. Social distancing is not required for members of the same household, living unit or Social Bubble. Additionally, all protest participants must wear facial coverings unless they are unable to do so for health-related reasons or due to barriers to access. Lastly, the organizer(s) of a protest must create and maintain a plan for compliance with State and County requirements that must be produced to the County Health Department upon request, and specifically in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.