

Safety & Planning

Emergency contact

Designated meeting place

Backup meeting place

Emergency medical info (e.g. allergies, meds)

Dependents (Who needs care if I'm detained?)

Use the blank side of this zine to record notes or additional numbers.

Updated July 2020

Pocket Protest Guide

Print more for free at
quarantinepubliclibrary.com

Know Your Rights

While the first amendment protects your right to assemble, you are least vulnerable to police intervention on public land like sidewalks, parks, streets, and areas around government buildings.

If law enforcement perceives a mass presence as interfering with government function or blocking access to public utilities (like transit systems and highways), or can create a case that a protest is a threat to public safety, they may issue a dispersal order. Police must issue these orders clearly, outline detailed consequences of refusals to comply, create clear paths to exit, and provide sufficient time for dispersal.

On public property, you may legally document anything within plain view. On private property, photography and video rights may be limited by property owners.

Police cannot require permits for protests held in response to breaking news.

If You're Arrested

Memorize phone numbers for your emergency contact and a lawyer in case you are detained by police. Ask organizers for references, or research resources for free legal counsel in your area. Consider writing this information on your skin in with a permanent marker.

Note arresting officer(s)' badge number(s), patrol car numbers, physical description, division, and other identifying information. Have an onlooker record these details, along with your name and emergency contact info. If a fellow protestor is arrested, perform this role for them if possible.

Remain as calm as possible. Do not resist arrest. Do not consent to any searches. Ask for a lawyer immediately. Remain silent except to voice opposition to unlawful confiscations (for example, if police view your photos or access your phone without a warrant).

Law enforcement may not listen to a call with your lawyer, but can legally surveil other phone contact in detention—even if it's your first and only call.

Digital Security

Phones and other smart devices can be used by law enforcement to track your activity and location without your consent. Consider leaving your phone at home, or turning it to airplane mode when attending an action.

Deactivate face and touch ID. Law enforcement can unlock your phone with your body's passcodes are more difficult to obtain.

Do not use your phone to record a protest unless it becomes clear that your documentation will become necessary to protect other protestors. If a situation arises where it is crucial to capture evidence, use tools like Image Scrubber to erase metadata and blur faces in order to protect the identities of other protestors.

Use Signal or another encrypted messaging system for all protest-related communication. Message only with people you know well, and discuss plans in person whenever possible.

America is amidst a pandemic that kills Black people at 1.5x the rate of the white population. Protesting white supremacy requires maintaining vigilance against the transmission of COVID-19.

Wear a mask at all times. Bring hand sanitizer, avoid touching public surfaces, and wash your hands, body, and clothes immediately after attending an action.

Stay at least 6 feet from others at all times. The difficulty of this does not make it less important. Symptoms may not appear for 14 days or more, and no test is known to be completely accurate.

Before attending an action, consider how much care you have taken to social distance recently, and how much care you will realistically take in coming weeks. Does your job or living situation put you in contact with someone who may be immunocompromised? Do you have adequate social/medical support if you become ill yourself?

COVID-19

Tear Gas and Kettling

Anticipate tear gas exposure by: wearing a scarf, mask, and goggles; covering exposed skin; foregoing contact lenses and eye makeup; and carrying water.

If exposed, move away from the point of dispersal, seek higher ground, and flush your eyes with water for 10-15 minutes. (Milk and baking soda are not more effective, and may pose additional risks.)

The deployment of tear gas increases respiratory distress, causing the accelerated spread of airborne illnesses while also inhibiting the body's ability to fight infection. Consider this when assessing your vulnerability to COVID-19 as a protestor.

Kettling is the police practice of surrounding groups of protestors in order to prevent their movement and/or dispersal. Keep kettles from forming by moving constantly and unpredictably, and remaining close to bystanders and other civilians. If police individually remove protestors from a kettle, they cannot search you or confiscate your devices.