



NEWS



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Guidance to Prevent Spread of COVID-19 At Protests, Rallies, & Mass Gatherings

BLOOMINGTON, IL – This document summarizes MCHD’s recommendations for community members joining protests/rallies/mass gatherings locally and across the country.

- Continue to practice all pieces of the COVID-19 prevention measures. Remember that physical distancing and other measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 are all pieces of the prevention toolkit. If you attended large group gatherings, it’s important to maintain social distance of at least 6-feet apart from others, and wear a face covering when in public, wash your hands and avoid touching your face.
- People who have been at group gatherings should take precautions. Dr. Ezike, Director of IDPH recommends testing 5-6 days after attending protests, rallies, and mass gatherings, or if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 you should get tested right away, whether you’ve been at a protest or not.
 - COVID-19 testing is now available at McLean County Fairgrounds (1106 Interstate Drive, Bloomington, IL). Testing site is located in the parking lot on the west side of the Walmart on Market street – designated entrances are indicated with street signs. This is a FREE service that can be obtained without a doctor’s referral or code.
 - For those who have limited transportation, you can access the COVID-19 shuttle bus (full size bus) for FREE. It runs Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 AM to 11:30 AM and 2 PM to 3:30 PM. Take the Brown, Silver, or Lime Connect Transit bus line from Downtown Bloomington (in front of the Law and Justice building) or the Connect Transit transfer station in Uptown Normal. All three lines will take you to the Walmart on Market St, once you arrive the shuttle bus will be located behind the bus stop with “Testing Shuttle Bus,” in the header.

As leaders in public health, it is our job to serve on the frontlines of protecting the public’s wellness. As has been made clear over the past weeks, our responsibility is to not only protect people from direct threats to their health, but to address threats to their safety, which also often affect their health and wellbeing.

Racism and police brutality are forms of trauma that many of our community members experience. Witnessing this trauma repeatedly affects emotional, physical, and mental health, especially for those

in communities of color. Check-up on friends, family, and your community, as well as checking in with yourself. Healthy people, healthy places.

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