

HOW TO PROTEST SAFELY

The right to peacefully assemble is fundamental. Before you commit to a protest, make sure you understand what you're protesting and why.

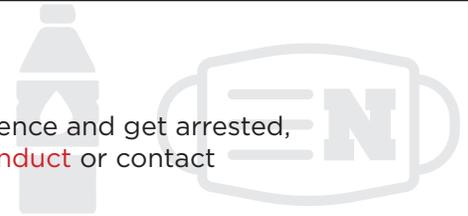
- Do the leaders of the demonstration prioritize nonviolence?
- Are you comfortable supporting their demands?

Answering key questions like these can prevent you from being a part of a disorganized, problematic, or unsafe event.

The university encourages all who engage in protest activity to protest safely. Below are some suggestions for doing so.

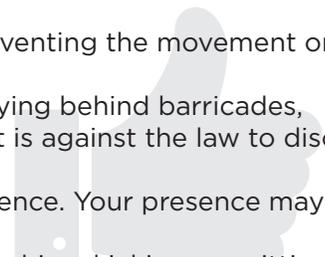
BEFORE PROTESTING

- Use the buddy system and ask a friend to go with you.
- Let someone you trust know where you're going.
- **Know your rights.**
- Make informed decisions. If you choose to engage in civil disobedience and get arrested, know the potential consequences. Review the **Student Code of Conduct** or contact **Student Conduct & Community Standards** for more information.
- Bring water, tissues, snacks and your mask!



WHILE PROTESTING

- Follow the lead of organizers. Look to them to start chants, guide marches along specific routes, and notify the group of any concerns. Above all, respect organizers' requests.
- Don't damage property.
- Avoid activity that infringes on the rights of others, such as blocking and preventing the movement or access of others.
- Follow the lawful instructions of a police officer or public official, such as staying behind barricades, dispersing from an area declared an unlawful assembly, not resisting arrest. It is against the law to disobey a lawful order by a police officer.
- Leave the area where others are engaging in illegal activities and acts of violence. Your presence may be interpreted as participating in a riot or illegal group action.
- Refrain from speech that incites others to commit acts of violence such as pushing, kicking or spitting on others, or other unlawful actions.
- Mask up and keep your mask on for the duration of the event.
- Social distance as much as physically possible to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Stay focused and aware of your surroundings at all times.



AFTER PROTESTING

- Continue to take care of yourself, mentally, physically and emotionally.
- Contact your elected officials. It's also critical to make sure that your representatives in office continue to hear from you by phone or email.
- There are a variety of ways you can support a cause. Write "Letters to the Editor" or consider volunteering with local organizations and helping to fundraise.
- UNL students in need of assistance after protesting or participating in community events can contact Student Affairs' **Student Advocacy and Support team**.



If you believe your rights have been violated by a police officer or other public official, ask for his or her name and badge number (if a police officer) and file a complaint after the situation has calmed down or concluded. Formal complaints or charges may be filed with the **University Police Department**, **Lincoln Police Department**, **Lancaster County Sheriff's Office** and/or **Nebraska State Patrol**.

Student Legal Services is also available to students for informal complaint resolution.