



**Public Health Department
of Mendocino County**

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Andy Coren, MD, County Health Officer



Recommendation Regarding Continued Remote Public Meetings of Governmental Bodies

September 29, 2021

In light of the continued state of emergency related to COVID-19, as the County Health Officer, I recommend that public bodies continue to meet remotely to the extent possible.

This recommendation is made due to the continued threat of COVID-19 to this community with the ongoing surge in cases and deaths experienced since the Labor Day holiday, the current county vaccination rate, and a concern for continued risk during the upcoming holidays. Additionally, I make this recommendation based on the unique characteristics of public governmental meetings (such as the increased mixing associated with bringing people together from across the community, the need to enable those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated to be able to safely continue to fully participate in such governmental meetings, and the challenges with fully ascertaining and ensuring compliance with vaccination and other safety recommendations at such meetings), and the continued increased safety protection that physical/social distancing provides as one means by which to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Therefore, I strongly recommend teleconferencing through online meetings as this type of meeting presents the lowest risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, and allows for the participation of the community, local agency staff, presenters, and local agency governing bodies in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion.

I will continue to evaluate this recommendation on an ongoing basis, paying particular attention to the pandemic stage of our community. I will communicate when there is no longer such a recommendation with respect to meetings for public bodies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Howard A. Coren, M.D.", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Howard A. Coren, M.D.,
Mendocino County Health Officer

Dated: September 29, 2021