



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Division

HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING (CONTINUED REMOTE MEETINGS FOR LEGISLATIVE BODIES)

COVID-19 disease prevention measures endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention include vaccinations, facial coverings, increased indoor ventilation, handwashing, and physical/social distancing (particularly indoors). Since early in the COVID-19 pandemic, local legislative bodies such as boards, commissions, committees, and councils have successfully held public meetings remotely via teleconferencing. I strongly recommend continued use of teleconference meetings as a social distancing measure to help control transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Public meetings bring together many individuals, from multiple households, in a single indoor space for an extended period of time. Utilizing teleconferencing options for public meetings is an effective and recommended social distancing measure to facilitate legislative business and participation in public affairs while at the same time helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This recommendation is intended to satisfy the provision of the Brown Act (specifically, Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A)), which allows local legislative bodies in the County of Santa Cruz to use teleconferencing to enable remote meetings under specified circumstances. I will continue to evaluate this recommendation on an ongoing basis and will communicate when it is appropriate to withdraw the recommendation.

Gail Newel, MD

Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz

Dated: September 30, 2021