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### Health Officer Teleconferencing Recommendation

Since March 2020, local legislative bodies including commissions, committees, boards, and councils have successfully held public meetings with teleconferencing technology as authorized by Governor Executive Orders. Using such technology for virtual participation in public meetings is a social distancing measure that may help control transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Public meetings bring together many individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, from multiple households, in a single indoor space for an extended period of time.

In some settings, physical distancing is not possible and other mitigation means (such as mask use, vaccination, and ventilation) are recommended to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission. In other settings, physical distancing can be implemented without negative effects on the work or other outcomes. If physical distancing measures can be implemented, they are recommended and will lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Utilizing teleconferencing options for public meetings is an effective and recommended social distancing measure to facilitate participation in public affairs and encourage participants to protect themselves and other from the COVID-19 virus. For those at increased risk for infection, ill, or subject to an isolation or quarantine order, teleconferencing for the member(s) or attendee(s) allows for full participation in public meetings, while protecting themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus.

This recommendation is further intended to satisfy the requirement of the Brown Act (specifically Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A)), which allows local legislative bodies in the County of Madera to use certain available teleconferencing options as set forth in the Brown Act.

Simon Paul, M.D.  
Public Health Officer

