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## Remote Board Meetings

1 message

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To: "acramton@dewittwp.org" <acramton@dewittwp.org>

Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 4:47 PM

Hello, Adam:

It was a pleasure speaking to you moments ago. I would like to share with you an FAQ on the new MDHHS order that relates to our conversation.

### **Q: What are the gathering and capacity restrictions that apply to in-person meetings of public bodies under the Open Meetings Act?**

**A: Beginning on March 31, 2021**, public bodies can continue to hold virtual meetings under the circumstances outlined in **Public Act 254 of 2020**. For example, in counties or other local units of government operating under a local state of emergency or disaster, public bodies may continue to host virtual meetings.

Additionally, public bodies may meet in person. Public meetings under the Open Meetings Act are not subject to the gathering restrictions under section 2(a) and 2(b) under this Order, but they must comply with all other requirements of this Order.

Members of the public may both attend meetings and participate in public comment in person to the extent permitted under the Open Meetings Act. Overall attendance at any public meeting must not exceed 50% of the total occupancy limits established by the fire marshal. Attendees should avoid intermingling with people outside of their group and each group must remain 6 feet apart. All applicable masking and distancing requirements must be followed by everyone at all times.

All meetings covered by the Open Meetings Act - whether conducted virtually or in person - must also comply with **Public Act 254 of 2020**.

Also, if a board member is absent due to a local state of emergency, the public should be provided the option to participate remotely (especially given the 50% occupancy limit).

Regards,

**Brennan M. Ackerman**, Attorney

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