

## KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

*The Kitsap Peninsula is home of sovereign Indian nations, namely the  
Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes*

### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

May 31, 2022  
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**\*\* Please note that this is a virtual / online meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
Electronic connection and viewing information for the meeting is provided at the end of the  
agenda. \*\***

10:30 a.m.     1.     Call to Order  
*Mayor Greg Wheeler, Chair*

#### ACTION ITEM

10:31 a.m.     2.     Consideration of Health Board Meeting Format for the Duration  
Of the Declared State of Emergency for COVID-19  
*Keith Grellner, Administrator & Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer*

11:00 a.m.     3.     Adjourn

*All times are approximate. Board meeting materials are available online at  
[www.kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php](http://www.kitsappublichealth.org/about/board-meetings.php)*

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Instructions for virtual attendance at Kitsap Public Health Board meetings\*\*

### Health Board Meetings Via Zoom

The Kitsap Public Health Board will be held via Zoom webinar, broadcast live on Comcast channel 12, WAVE channel 3, the [BKAT website](http://BKATwebsite) and Facebook (please note: there is no physical location for this meeting. Board members and staff will all participate remotely). The Health Board and presenters are **panelists**, members of the public are **attendees**.

## How to Join the Zoom Meeting

To join the meeting online, please click the link below from your smartphone, tablet, or computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86186052497?pwd=TXcrQU1PRWVGVHgyWERXRFluTWloQT09>

**Password:** 109118

**Or join by telephone:**

Dial: +1 (253) 215-8782

**Webinar ID:** 861 8605 2497

\*Zoom meeting is limited to the first 500 participants. A recording of the meeting will be made available on our website within 48 hours of the meeting.


## Public Participation Guidelines

Below are recommendations for use by members of the public in meetings conducted via Zoom Webinar.

Webinar **attendees** do not interact with one another; they join in listen-only mode, and the host will unmute one or more attendees as needed.

**No public comment will be taken during this meeting. Public comment will be accepted at the June 7 regular meeting.**

**Use Headphones/Mic** for better sound quality and less background noise, if possible.

**Closed Captions/Live Transcripts** are available. On the bottom of your zoom window, click the  button to turn on/off captions. You can adjust the way captions appear on your screen in settings. Please be aware, captions are auto-generated by Zoom and may contain errors.

# MEMO

**To:** Kitsap Public Health Board

**From:** Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer  
Keith Grellner, Administrator

**Date:** May 31, 2022

**Re:** Consideration of Health Board Meeting Format for the Duration of the Declared State of Emergency for COVID-19

On February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-05](#), proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties in Washington as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency through Proclamation 9994 concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden issued a notice on April 13, 2022, continuing the national emergency for another 90 days until June 30, 2022.

Kitsap County's Department of Emergency Management issued a Proclamation of Emergency on March 8, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The proclamation remains in effect at this time.

On March 24, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-28, which was updated on January 19, 2021 as [Proclamation 20-28.15](#), prohibiting in-person meetings as well as waiving and suspending provisions in chapter 42.56 RCW, the Public Records Act, and chapter 42.30 RCW, the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), that hinder conducting public meetings remotely. The OPMA requires all meetings of governing bodies of public agencies to be open to the public. Proclamation 20-28 and subsequent extensions waived requirements for an in-person setting for public meetings, allowing agencies to hold fully remote public meetings to protect the health and safety of meeting attendees.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed [Engrossed Substitute House Bill \(ESHB\) 1329](#), which:

- Clarifies that meetings subject to the OPMA must have a physical location, with a few allowed exceptions; and
- Allows agencies to limit public attendance or to hold public meetings remotely after a local, state, or federal state of emergency has been declared if the agency determines that a meeting with in-person attendance cannot be held with reasonable safety because of the

emergency. If an agency makes such a determination, it may: (a) Hold a remote meeting of the governing body without a physical location; or (b) Hold a meeting of the governing body at which the physical attendance by some or all members of the public is limited due to a declared emergency.

Further, if the agency decides to limit public attendance or conduct the meeting remotely, it must provide an option for the public to listen to the meeting. This may be through the telephone, on a local cable television station, over the Internet, or through some other means. The option cannot require any cost to the public to access the meeting. If the public agency does not provide such an option, it cannot take action at the meeting. Notice provided for a remote meeting or a meeting with limited public attendance must include instructions for how the public may attend remotely.

On April 29, 2022, Governor Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-28.16](#), stating that:

- Proclamation 20-28 and its subsequent extensions, which waived the OPMA requirement for in-person locations for public meetings, are terminated and rescinded effective 12:01 A.M. on June 1, 2022; and
- Proclamation 20-05 and its subsequent amendments remain in effect, and therefore a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington.

Meetings of the Kitsap Public Health Board (Board) are subject to the OPMA. Prior to the pandemic, the Board typically held its regular meetings in person at the Norm Dicks Government Center Chambers. However, during the pandemic and state of emergency, Board members, presenters, invited guests, and the public have participated/attended Health Board meetings remotely/virtually via Zoom, Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (BKAT) or Facebook Live to comply with the Governor's order and to protect the health and safety of meeting attendees and guests. These meetings have not had a physical location, but have provided the meeting access for Board members, staff, and members of the public to participate via Zoom, BKAT, and/or Facebook Live, without additional costs to the public to virtually attend the meetings. The Board's current [meeting schedule](#) for 2022 that it adopted in December 2021, is a remote-only schedule.

Cases of COVID-19 in Kitsap and Washington state are on the rise again. COVID-19 case rates are about 200/100,000 population/last 7 days, but we are confident that this rate is largely undercounting true disease activity due to the availability and use of at-home tests; at-home test results are virtually unaccounted for in current national, state, and local case rates because there is no established system to require, collect, and report these results. COVID-19 outbreaks at long-term care facilities, schools, and other employment situations are prevalent in Kitsap based upon voluntary reporting to, and requests of assistance from, Kitsap Public Health District.

There are no local or state mandates in effect that require masks or proof of vaccination to attend public meetings.

Therefore, due to:

- The prevalence of COVID-19 in our community at this time;
- Our duty to control and prevent the spread of infectious disease and our authority to take such action as is necessary to maintain health within our jurisdiction;
- The easy availability for the public to access and attend Health Board meetings in virtual format via Zoom, BKAT, and Facebook Live;
- Our strong desire to protect the health and safety of board members, meeting guests, and Health District employees; and
- The existing federal, state, and local declarations of emergency that are still in effect for COVID-19;

the Health District recommends the Health Board to continue to meet remote-only via Zoom, BKAT, and Facebook Live until the state of emergency is rescinded and/or COVID-19 disease rates and outbreaks decrease significantly.

#### **Recommended Action**

The Health District recommends that the Health Board consider a motion to continue meeting remote-only in virtual format to protect the health and safety of board members, guests, and Health District employees for as long as the federal, state, and/or local emergency declarations are in effect and local COVID-19 disease activity is widespread in our community.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Keith Grellner at (360) 728-2284, or email him at [keith.grellner@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:keith.grellner@kitsappublichealth.org).