**COVID Board Meeting Protocol**

**Revised 06/01/2022**

**Purpose:** Establish meeting guidelines that meet OMA requirements and MDHHS Epidemic Orders while ensuring the health and safety of Board members, WMCMH team members, and any public attendee.

**Legal Considerations:** Consistent with MCL 333.2253, board meetings in person will occur only when units of local government have not declared a disaster or state of emergency. As a 3-county entity, the order must not be present in the county where the Board meeting is occurring. Per MCL 333.2253, if a disaster or state of emergency does not exist, “meeting in-person may now be the only lawful option to conduct the public’s business in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.”

**Current Status of State of Emergency Declaration:** MDHHS has rescinded Epidemic Orders and MIOSHA has referred to federal OSHA ETS.

**Scheduled Board Meeting Locations:**

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| April 19th – Ludington (Mason County) | September 20th – Hart (Oceana County) |
| May 17th – Ludington (Mason County) | October 18th – Baldwin (Lake County) |
| June 21st – Hart (Oceana County) | November 15th – Ludington (Mason County) |
| July 19th – Baldwin (Lake County) | December 20th – Ludington (Mason County) |
| August 16th – Ludington (Mason County) |  |

**Specific Guidelines:**

* As of January 1, the only virtual participation/attendance allowed is for military members who are deployed. Illness exemptions are no longer allowed under the Open Meetings Act.
* Board members who attend virtually *without military exemption* **are NOT able to vote** during the meeting. If we have individuals who need to participate virtually, we will use the “owl”, but these board members may not vote and are not included in the quorum.
* Anyone who is feeling ill, demonstrating any symptoms of illness, or is on a quarantine order due to COVID exposure or a positive COVID test is prohibited from attending the meeting in person and will be invited to attend virtually. Additionally, anyone exhibiting any of the following symptoms will not be allowed attend the meeting and will be directed to participate virtually: cough, fever/feverish, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, stomach distress (vomiting, diarrhea), loss of taste or smell.
* All individuals who attend the meeting (board members, team members, and members of the public) will be screened prior to entering the facility of the Board meeting. Anyone with a positive screen will be requested to participate virtually.
* **Masks are no longer required during the Board meeting as long as we are not meeting in a site that requires them** (e.g., any facility that requires guests to be masked) **and as long as no services are being delivered.** We are still requiring social distancing during our meetings.
* There may be limited seating available dependent upon the facility (Lake and Oceana counties) being utilized for the meeting. When possible WMCMH will provide an alternative location, which will be identified and published in advance of the meeting that will allow more attendance.
* All surfaces will be cleaned prior to and after the meeting has ended.