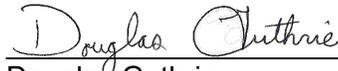


**RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION  
54953(e) AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**



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Douglas Guthrie  
President & Chief Executive Officer



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James Johnson  
General Counsel

**Purpose:** To adopt a Resolution which will enable the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (“Board”) to comply with the requirements of newly enacted legislation, AB 361, and authorize the continued use of teleconferencing for meetings of the Board.

**Issues:** On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California pursuant to Government Code section 8625 (the California Emergency Services Act) as a result of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 were issued shortly thereafter, which suspended certain provisions of California’s open meetings law, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54950, et. seq., the “Brown Act”), and specifically allowed for legislative bodies, as defined by the Brown Act, to hold their meetings entirely electronically without a physical meeting location. Executive Order N-08-21 was issued on June 11, 2021, replacing the Brown Act portions of N-29-20, but still allowing the temporary suspension of certain parts of the Brown Act. It established an expiration date of September 30, 2021 for the suspended Brown Act provisions. However, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 (“AB 361”), which adds Government Code section 54953(e) to the Brown Act and provides for remote teleconferencing subject to the existence of certain conditions.

AB 361 amended Government Code section 54953 to add new subsection (e) that permits legislative bodies, when there is a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, to make a determination to authorize meeting remotely via teleconferencing as a result of the emergency. To do so, a resolution would need to be adopted in which the legislative body finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, or that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

Under Government Code section 54953(e), the resolution is valid for thirty (30) days after teleconferencing for the first time under the new rules. If the state of emergency remains active after that 30-day period, the local agency may act to renew its resolution authorizing remote teleconferenced meetings by passing another resolution which includes findings that the state of emergency declaration remains active, the local agency has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency, and the local agency has either identified: A) ongoing, direct impacts to the ability to meet safely in-person, or B) active social distancing measures as directed by relevant state or local officials. The aforementioned procedures for teleconference meetings set forth in Government Code section 54953(e) (AB 361) are set to expire on January 1, 2024.

The proposed Resolution includes findings based upon a determination that, as a result of the proclaimed state of emergency in California due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued spread in Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles, County health officials continue to recommend social distancing to reduce the transmission of Covid-19.

The Board has effectively and efficiently conducted its meetings by teleconference under Executive Orders N-25-20, N-29-20, and N-08-21, since March 2020. Adoption of the Resolution will satisfy the findings requirements of Government Code Section 54953(e) and allow the Board to safely continue carrying out its business in a manner that will minimize the risk of contracting COVID-19 for everyone involved.

Board adoption of the Resolution would permit meeting under the provisions of AB 361 for a maximum period of 30 days. After 30 days, the Board would need to renew its resolution, consistent with the requirements of AB 361, if HACLA desires to continue meeting under the modified Brown Act requirements, or allow the resolution to lapse.

**Vision Plan: Pathways Strategy #5 – Organizational Efficiency; People Strategy – Community Health & Wellness and Public Safety**

Adopting this Resolution authorizing remote meetings pursuant to AB 361 is consistent with the Vision Plan’s strategies to engage residents and program participants in HACLA’s programs while protecting public health.

**Funding:** No funds are required for this action.

**Environmental Review:** Not applicable.

**Section 3:** Not applicable.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution
2. LACDPH Publication: “Covid 19: Reducing Risk[,] Keeping Safe & Reducing Spread”

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**WHEREAS**, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (“HACLA”) is a public body, corporate and politic, duly created, established, and authorized to transact business and exercise powers under and pursuant to the provisions of the Housing Authorities Law, Section 34200, et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code;

**WHEREAS**, HACLA is committed to preserving and encouraging public access and participation in meetings of its Board of Commissioners (“Board”);

**WHEREAS**, all meetings of HACLA’s Board are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code sections 54950, et seq.) (the “Brown Act”), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the Board conduct its business;

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 (“AB 361”), which added subsection (e) to Government Code section 54953 of the Brown Act, and makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions;

**WHEREAS**, a required condition of the relaxed teleconferencing requirements under AB 361 is that the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency;

**WHEREAS**, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees;

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency exists in California as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 virus, and despite sustained efforts, the virus continues to spread and is impacting nearly all sectors of California;

**WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Officer has issued numerous recommendations advising residents to social distance to reduce their risk of contracting or spreading Covid-19, such as in their publication entitled “Covid 19: Reducing Risk[,] Keeping Safe & Reducing Spread”;

**WHEREAS**, as a consequence of the state of emergency and social distancing recommendations, the Board does hereby find that it may conduct its meetings as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that HACLA shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to such meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board will continue to post meeting agendas online in accordance with Brown Act requirements, make the meetings available online, and allow for public participation in the Board meetings, including by offering public comment in real time at the Board meetings.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board does hereby resolve as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

**Section 2. State of Emergency.** The Board hereby finds that the Governor of the State of California (the "Governor") proclaimed a state of emergency on March 4, 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and that this state of emergency is ongoing until terminated by the Governor.

**Section 3. Protecting Public Health.** The Board hereby finds that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has recommended measures to promote social distancing to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

**Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings.** The President and Chief Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) (AB 361) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

**Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

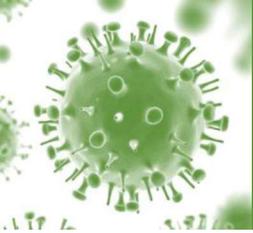
APPROVED AS TO FORM

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James Johnson, General Counsel

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cielo Castro, Chairperson

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_



# COVID-19: Reducing Risk

## Keeping Safe & Preventing Spread

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread, especially to those who are not fully vaccinated<sup>1</sup>. The more contagious Delta variant is now widespread in LA County.

The following information is to help people understand who is most at risk of getting infected and sick, which situations are riskier, and what steps they can take to stay safe and slow the spread of COVID-19.

### WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

People who are not vaccinated are at the highest risk of getting infected with COVID-19. This includes people who have not completed their Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series (i.e., they only got the first dose) as well as children under age 12 who are too young to be vaccinated. Unvaccinated adults who are older or who have [certain medical conditions](#) are at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease.

People with severely weakened immune systems<sup>2</sup> who are fully vaccinated might not respond as well to the vaccine so may still be at increased risk of COVID-19. This includes people with certain health conditions or who are taking certain medications (such as treatment for cancer, organ transplants or autoimmune conditions).

Fully vaccinated persons are at lowest risk of getting infected with COVID-19. They are well protected from getting very sick and dying from COVID-19. A small percent of people who are fully vaccinated are getting infected with the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. These “breakthrough infections” are expected even with highly effective vaccines. Importantly, breakthrough infections usually cause mild symptoms, if any. It is possible for fully vaccinated people to spread the virus to other people.

### WHICH SITUATIONS ARE RISKIER?

Understanding how the COVID-19 virus is spread is important. It will help you to assess your risk and take steps to protect yourself in different situations.

The virus spreads from person to person mainly through respiratory droplets that are released into the air by a person who has COVID-19. For example, when they speak, sing, cough, shout, sneeze, or breathe heavily. These droplets are then breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, nose, or mouth. A person’s risk of getting infected goes up the closer they are to someone with COVID-19. Enclosed places with poor air flow can also increase the risk of getting infected. This is because the droplets that have the virus can concentrate and spread in the air past 6 feet. They can even stay floating in the air after an infected person has left the room.

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<sup>1</sup> You are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two (2) weeks after: the second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series, a single dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or you finished the series of a COVID-19 vaccine that has been listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization. See [fully vaccinated](#) web page for more information.

<sup>2</sup> People who have health conditions or who take medications that weaken their immune system may not receive full protection from the vaccine. This includes people who have: been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood, received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system, received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system, moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome), advanced or untreated HIV infection, or active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress the immune response. Talk to your doctor if you have one of these or a similar condition. For more information, including when additional doses of vaccines are recommended, visit the CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#).

This is why masks are important. They lower the number of respiratory droplets people release into the air AND also the number that they breathe in.

It is also possible, but less common, for the virus to spread by touching a surface with droplets on it and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

#### There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily

- **Closed spaces** with poor air flow.
- **Crowded places** with many people nearby
- **Close contact settings** especially where people are talking (or breathing heavily) close together

## HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF COVID-19

- **Get vaccinated.** It is the best way to protect against COVID-19 (see [Vaccination](#) below)
- **Wear a mask that fits and filters well.** Your mask is one of the most powerful tools you have to protect yourself and other unvaccinated people (see [Masks](#) below)
- **Avoid crowded places.** Being in crowds, especially indoors, puts you at a higher risk. If you need to be indoors, try to go during non-peak hours and consider wearing a more protective mask. Limit how long you are there.
- **Improve air flow.** Go outside. Avoid indoor spaces with poor air flow as much as possible. Open windows and doors, use fans and portable air cleaners, run heating and air, and upgrade filters. (see CDPH [guidance](#) and [fact sheet](#)).
- **Choose outdoor spaces** for social and fitness activities
- **Keep your distance.** Use two arms lengths as your guide (about 6 feet) for social distancing with people outside your household when you are not sure that they are fully vaccinated.
- **Socialize with the same set of friends and relatives** rather than mixing with many different people who are not vaccinated.
- **Be flexible.** Be willing to change your plans or leave if you find yourself in a place where COVID-19 can spread more easily. For example, indoors in a loud crowded restaurant with a lot of people who are not wearing masks.
- **Wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer often** - especially after being in public spaces where surfaces are touched by many people. Avoid eating and touching your face with unwashed hands.
- **Stay home when sick.** If you have symptoms of COVID-19, talk to a doctor and get a test. You should stay home and away from others until you get the result of your COVID-19 test or until your provider tells you that you don't have COVID-19. To learn about symptoms and what to do if you are sick see [ph.lacounty.gov/covidcare](http://ph.lacounty.gov/covidcare).
- **Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated.** If you do travel and are not fully vaccinated, follow the CDC [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel guidance including staying home and quarantining upon return.

## VACCINATION

Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19. It will slow the spread of COVID-19 including variants of the virus. And it will also help lower the chances of new and more dangerous variants emerging.

- If you are already vaccinated, encourage your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors to get vaccinated.
- If you are 12 years of age or older and not yet fully vaccinated, consider getting vaccinated now. Vaccines are safe, effective, and free to everyone regardless of immigration status. Talk with your doctor about any concerns.

Vaccines are widely available across LA without an appointment. Visit [www.VaccinateLACounty.com](http://www.VaccinateLACounty.com) to find a location near you. Call 1-833-540-0473 if you need help making an appointment, need transportation to a vaccination site, or are homebound. Phone lines are open from 8am to 8:30pm 7 days a week. Information is also available in many languages 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

## MASKS

Your mask should fit snugly over your nose and mouth and be made of at least two layers so that they filter well. If you are in a setting where you are in sustained close contact with other people who may not be fully vaccinated, consider "[double masking](#)" (wearing a cloth face mask over surgical mask) or an N95 respirator. These offer a higher level of protection. This is especially important if you are not fully vaccinated and are indoors or in a crowded outdoor place.

**Masks are now required in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, public and private businesses, and at outdoor Mega Events (events with over 10,000 attendees like concerts, sports games, and parades) in Los Angeles County.** Some exceptions apply - see the revised [Health Officer Order](#) and information below.

### **EVERYONE\*, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask:**

- **In all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses in Los Angeles County**
- On planes, trains, buses, ferries, taxis and ride-shares, and all other forms of public transport
- In transportation hubs like airports, bus terminals, train stations, marinas, seaports or other ports, subway stations, or any other area that provides transportation
- In healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities)
- In state and local correctional facilities and detention centers.
- Shelters and cooling centers
- Indoors at any youth-serving facility (such as TK-12 schools, childcare, day camps, etc.)
- At outdoor Mega Events (events with over 10,000 attendees like concerts, sports games and parades)
- In any other outdoor location where it is the policy of the business or venue

## Recommendations

- It is *strongly recommended* that you wear a mask at private indoor social gatherings with people outside your household, unless everyone at the gathering is fully vaccinated.
- It is *strongly recommended* that you wear a mask at crowded outdoor events (that are smaller than Mega Events). In particular, wear a mask while in line to enter, exit, use the bathroom, or buy food or drinks.
- It is strongly recommended that children wear a mask on playgrounds and in other outdoor spaces where they gather if distancing is not possible or practical.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, *it is strongly recommended* that you wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings.
- If you are in a setting where you are in sustained close contact with other people who may not be fully vaccinated, consider wearing a higher level of protection, such as wearing two masks (double masking) or an N95 respirator. This is especially important if you are not fully vaccinated and are in an indoor or crowded outdoor setting.

Note: You are allowed to take off your mask while you:

- Actively eating or drinking as long as you are sitting or standing in a specific place such as a table, counter, or ticketed seat. This means that you can briefly remove your mask when you are actually eating or drinking, but you must put it back on immediately afterwards. You must also wear a mask when you are waiting to be served, between courses or drinks, and while seated after finishing your food or drink.
- Alone in a separate room or space.
- Showering or swimming.
- Receiving personal hygiene or personal care services (like a facial or shave) that cannot be done without removing your mask.

**\*There are some people who should not wear a mask**, such as children younger than 2, people with certain medical conditions or disabilities, and people instructed by their medical provider not to wear a mask. Children ages 2 to 8 should wear a mask only when under adult supervision. See [Who should not wear a mask](#) and [Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities](#).

**\*In the workplace**, workers must follow the most protective mask requirements as stated by Cal/OSHA and the County Health Officer Order. Certain employees may be exempt from wearing a mask in specific situations provided alternative safety measures are in place. See the [Health Officer Order](#) and [Best Practices for Businesses](#) webpage for details of workplace requirements.

Learn more about masks at <http://ph.lacounty.gov/masks>.