



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION**

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2020 (Revised)
TO: Parties, Attorneys and Customers of PERC
FROM: Joel M. Weisblatt, Chair
RE: Coronavirus (COVID - 19) - Continuation of PERC Operations & Guidance to Parties, Attorneys and Customers

Due to the continuing COVID-19 emergency, the cancelation of in-person conferences, hearings and mediations has now been extended until further notice. We have had some success with telephonic and video meetings; therefore, the Agency is now actively preparing to expand the use of remote video dispute resolution, including evidentiary hearings. We are developing that capability and plan to advance the use of technological alternatives as soon as possible. The application of any changes will be made according to specific needs and capabilities of the parties. Telephone conferences, and all elections currently scheduled will continue, but there may be restrictions on the number of people who can attend the counting of ballots, consistent with the limitations that the Governor has placed on all public gatherings.

At the same time, we are taking preventive measures to reduce risk and ease concerns. It is imperative that attorneys, parties, and employees not come to any meeting or proceeding if they are or may be at risk of exposure to or transmission of COVID-19. Instead, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or a risk of exposure (including a risk based on recent travel) should contact PERC by phone or through email to mail@PERC.state.nj.us and request to reschedule the proceeding or seek some other accommodation. Please follow up all telephone requests in writing and remember to copy the other parties. All requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis consistent with the most up-to-date guidance from the NJ DOH and CDC. If a person appears in our office and claims to have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, we must notify the local health department. We are working closely with the NJ Department of Health and local health departments, providing such notifications so that public health experts can follow up as necessary.

We are also closely monitoring developments relating to COVID-19 and recognize that the present situation may change on short notice. With that in mind, we are prepared to modify our proceedings if necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the parties and allow for fair and effective processing of your cases. It may, in the future, be necessary to prioritize different types of proceedings and, of course, address emergency situations first.

For current information, please check our public website (www.nj.gov/perc) or contact our office.

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