
TO: Executive Branch Agencies

FROM: Governor Laura Kelly

DATE: May 12, 2020

RE: Policy for Executive Branch Employees who are Providing Testimony to Legislative Committees

The Kansas Legislature is set to return for Sine Die on May 21, 2020. Beginning this week, some legislative committees plan to resume their work, including in-person meetings for some Senate Committees.

While this Administration has always made state employees readily available to provide legislative testimony and will continue to do so, we must ensure that state employees are not unnecessarily exposed to COVID-19 because of appearing in-person at a legislative hearing.

As we have seen across the globe throughout recent months, the ability to hold meetings—including legislative sessions, board meetings, staff meetings, and even court hearings—by phone and videoconference allows important business to be conducted with no risk of exposure to COVID-19. The Legislative Coordinating Council and State Finance Council have regularly used video or phone conferencing capabilities to hold meetings. The available technology provides an adequate substitute to in-person testimony while COVID-19 continues to present a serious and deadly risk in any gathering.

Accordingly, unless I direct otherwise in specific instances, for any legislative committee hearings or other legislative meetings from now through May 21, 2020, employees in Executive Branch agencies should provide legislative testimony only in writing or by phone- or video-conferencing technology.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.