



We had hardly moved into RLA's new office space in Rockville, MD, when we made a quick pivot to telework on March 16. Since then we've been helping our clients make their own transitions to virtual platforms, as we strive together to flatten the curve. Today we share guidance derived from years of virtual meeting management, whether you're uncertain about data security or are excited to take your next poster session online.

## Is my virtual meeting secure?

Federal and private institutions are rushing to move meetings to virtual platforms in response to COVID-19, but reports of "[Zoombombing](#)" and hacking have raised questions about meeting security.

The short answer is that virtual meetings can be as secure as all the other technological tools we use on a daily basis--as long as you know how to secure them.

Virtual meeting technology isn't unique in this regard. Most technology makers deliver a continuously evolving product, but leave individuals and institutions to figure out how to navigate and adapt that product for their own purposes.

Breakdowns in that navigation--as users have sought to learn a new set of menus and settings and keep up with a new set of updates--are responsible for a large majority of news reports about meeting security.



A handful of user guidelines have begun to circulate online, but many RLA clients, including government institutions, require a unique blend of private and public meetings that demand a more nuanced approach.

**RLA has compiled a list of best practices to support virtual meetings for our clients. [Learn more >>](#)**

## Three ways virtual platforms can support creative meetings

While most COVID-19 stay-at-home orders in the United States end in May, economists suggest that large professional meetings [may not return for much longer](#). Science organizations that have come to consider virtual staff meetings second nature may also need a virtual conference plan.

If that sounds daunting, take a look at the [74-member virtual orchestra](#) from Boston

Conservatory at Berklee. Music students across the country used virtual meeting technology to stage an extraordinary artistic event. The same technology can bring researchers and policy makers together to move science forward.

Although certain aspects of large science meetings are complex even in person, the truth is that virtual meeting platforms can deliver just about any aspect of major science meetings, **from poster sessions to breakout sessions to public addresses**. And they can do it without requiring participants to become technology experts themselves.

**RLA has been developing long-term solutions to some of the key challenges to holding large virtual meetings. [Learn more >>](#)**

rla@roseliassociates.com | www.roseliassociates.com | (301) 530-5011

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