

Direct to You

Wednesday
3/25/20

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director

Good Morning OHA:

Several staff have reached out to me asking for more frequent updates – so I am providing a “mini” *Direct to You*.

Many of you have asked questions about leave, benefits, and individual circumstances. We have been able to answer some of your questions quickly.

Responses to other questions, especially those that impact all of us or rely on guidance from the Federal government, will take some time to work out.

One thing is for certain, we are working consistently to create options for staff and residents as quickly as possible.

Here are a few highlights of our efforts:

- HR is finalizing plans to implement new policies in line with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which became law just last week.
- HR/Risk Management has provided trainings to several groups on the appropriate use of Personal Protection Equipment and CDC best practices to delay the spread of illness.
- Finance staff have been on-site making sure payments for goods, services and rents are getting out & confirmed HUD funded payments to PHAs for March & April.
- Each building is being sanitized nightly and mid-day using CDC best practices for all “high touch” areas – door knobs, phones, key boards, doors, bathrooms, hand rails, etc.
- We have conducted emergency sanitation response for concerns regarding contamination to keep our buildings safe and clean.
- We have staff working on- site and off -site performing essential activities to limit interruption to the services we offer and to keep this agency moving forward.

We are asking everyone, especially those of us who are working on-site; to self-report to HR if you feel you are ill, or may have come in contact during your daily lives with someone who may be sick.

This will allow us to respond quickly to minimize risks amongst our co-workers.

I am sincerely grateful to those staff who have come forward to confidentially report to HR their individual circumstances – it has helped tremendously.

We are all experiencing something new and unknown, feeling nervous, concerned for family and friends, and hoping for an answer to this virus.

I ask that during this time, while it may be challenging, we also take a moment to remember that we are going through it together as a community.

Let's continue to be thoughtful, patient and kind with one another.

Peace and health,

Patricia