

Direct to You

Friday
4/13/20

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director

Good Afternoon OHA:

This week, we welcomed a number of staff back to several of our worksites to perform the agency's essential functions.

To continue all our efforts to keep OHA safe, we are strengthening our individual efforts to embrace the Alameda County Health Officers' Guidance to wear face coverings when performing essential functions.

Effective immediately, the use of a face covering while performing essential functions and tasks is mandatory when interacting with others both in the field and while in social spaces.

As we all know, PPE face coverings for first responders and persons entering occupied units are scarce resources.

To keep the OHA resources of PPE available for our coworkers entering occupied units, including our OHA Police Officers, Property Management and Inspection teams I have a huge ask:

I am asking, and strongly recommending, that each of us who can, please bring our own cloth face covering to work each day.

This is an important collective effort to maintain PPE for our team members working in the field.

So, you may be asking how can I meet this requirement while on the work site?

- Use a cloth face covering, that covers the nose and mouth, while interacting with another person at OHA, walking through common spaces, and if you are in the rare situation that you are in a vehicle with another person.
- Public Health Officials state that professionally made and homemade cloth masks, bandannas, scarfs and neck gaiters are acceptable.
- Team members working independently in a vacant unit may opt to not wear a face covering while working in the unit alone.
- Team members working in the offices may opt to not use a face covering while in your work area alone and you are keeping to the 6 ft. Social Distancing Space requirements.
- Pay attention to the instructions about the proper way to wear your face covering. Please do not pull your face mask down around your neck when not in use. Properly remove it and reposition it when ready for use.
- As recommended by Public Health Officials, you should combine the use of Cloth Face Coverings with frequent hand washing, frequent use of hand sanitizer before AND after touching your face or face coverings, and adherence to social distancing requirements.
- If you forgot your cloth face covering, please see your Department Director for allocation of a regular mask from our reserve.

We are all adjusting together, so I thought I would share my own story:

"I have had a few times where I jumped up to get water and forgotten my cloth mask because I don't wear my mask while working at my desk.

So I have a picture on my door to remind me that when I leave my desk, to use hand sanitizer in order to place my cloth mask on when I'm going to use the copier, refill my water bottle, and when taking documents to another team member's office location. The sign also reminds me to put on my cloth face covering when someone comes to my office door to speak with me. This way, I am doing my individual part at social distancing."

Thank you all for helping to keep OHA's essential work as safe as possible.

Patricia

PS...Look on reverse for some helpful face make resources, including CDC guidelines, patterns formaking your own mask and a short tutorial for how to make a face covering in a few easy steps, using only three items.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) now recommends use of face masks.
[Read more.](#)



Download, print and use patterns below to make properly fitting face masks.

[How to make a face mask \(with YouTube video\)](#)

[Large Adult Mask Pattern](#) [Small & Medium Face Mask Pattern](#)

[Young Kids \(7-12 Yrs\) Face Mask Pattern](#) [Small Kids \(3-6 Yrs\) Face Mask Pattern](#)

To learn about resources that are available to OHA employees during this current health crisis, visit the previous **Direct to You:**

<https://mailchi.mp/6770d9e99283/direct-to-you?e=822c0d5b41>

Scan QR-Code to access updated information on the OHA website at www.oakha.org.
(You may need to download a scanning app to your smart phone.)

