

Direct To You

Tuesday
6/18/20

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director

How are you doing?

It has been over three months since I launched the first Direct to You on March 5, 2020. During that time, we have been through so much individually and collectively. Yet, despite our circumstances, our agency team has risen to the occasion, striving to meet our mission, keeping families housed, and helping new applicants acquire housing.

I thank each of you for your perseverance, commitment and dedication.

Nearly four months in – I feel compelled to ask: “How are you doing?”

Are we remembering to practice self-care?

I took time to research self-care, because I am not great at it. I found some tips that I want to share, compliments of Harvard Business Review:

1. Start with self-care.
2. As for help when you need it.
3. Ask others, “how are you?”
4. Look for the positive and say it aloud. So I am saying (well, writing) out loud: “I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOU!”

*We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes
it has gone through to achieve that beauty.*

—Maya Angelou



Wishing everyone a peaceful and healthy Father’s Day weekend,

Patricia

PS...In thinking of Father’s Day and the celebration of the fathers in our lives, I’m reminded that my own father was and remains my hero-in my eyes, as a “single Dad,” he was no doubt one of the mightiest of men. He formed my definition of “Daddy”, which pretty much looked to me a lot like a superhero.

Similar to the theme of a Superhero, each father has different strengths, skills, talents, methods and weaknesses- and we celebrate each of you in your individual unique super hero ways.

So next week I proclaim OHA’s “Father’s Week” – for all of our Fathers who rise up each day to use their superpowers



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.)



New Face Coverings Mandate (Effective Today)



Thanks to all OHA employees who have diligently followed established OHA protocol and local and state laws in regard to the use of face coverings and other COVID-19 related guidance. We have played an integral role in helping to reduce the spread of the virus and as a result have watched the curve flatten. However, when that happened, and businesses began to re-open, some people (not us) got lax in the consistent use of face coverings and other PPE. As a result, the numbers of infections has started to tick back up and today the Governor signed a new order that supersedes the previous one.

The **new state mandate** goes into effect on today, June 18, and requires Californians to wear face coverings in common and public indoor spaces and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible.

This new order is consistent with OHA's policy requiring the use of face coverings while at work, both inside and outside, whenever the potential to be within 30 ft of another person is possible. For the complete language of the new state mandate signed today by Governor Newsom, read here. For more details about OHA's policy, read the article in the June 15, Direct To You.



Understanding History

Freedom deferred. That term summarizes the significance of Juneteenth, a day that commemorates the day, June, 19th in 1865, when Union Soldiers arrived at Galveston, Texas, with news that the previously enslaved African American's were NOW free. The problem was, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had become official on January 1, 1863, over years earlier.

While not an official holiday in the state of California, it is and should be a day to remember, honor and live out the promise of freedom and equality for all. This promise of America still has to be done.

Direct From Me

Messages from OHA Employees to Leadership

Direct From Me is your line directly to OHA's leadership. Your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for meaningful change are welcomed and will be heard and considered. A big shout out was sent to all those who submitted their ideas when Direct From Me was launched. Congratulations to those who received a "thanks for participating," which you can read more about in the June 15, Direct To Me in case you missed it.

When we communicate, we make OHA a better place work and we are a more effective team, delivering quality housing and services to our clients.

Remember: In just a few short steps you can make a difference:

1. Click on the Direct From Me link: <http://oakhapmd.org>
2. Fill out the online form and include as many details as possible;
3. Then click submit.

REMEMBER: if you have reasonable suspicion that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms of fever (100.4 Fahrenheit or higher), coughing, or shortness of breath, do not report to work. Immediately contact your primary care provider and then your supervisor for instructions on what you need to do next. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact your supervisor or Director. If you have questions in regards to pay or leave time, please contact Human Resources at (510) 874-1575.



REMINDERS

Social Distancing and Face Masks

Use a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth whenever 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. Team members working independently in a vacant unit may opt to not wear a face covering while working alone in the unit. Similarly, if working in an office, you 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. If someone comes into your office or within 6ft, you must put on your face covering.

Daily Check-In

Each employee, whether working remotely (at home) or at an OHA site must complete the Daily Check-In each morning prior to 9:15am. This is a short form that indicates where you are physically located and assist your supervisor and/or director in easily identifying which team members are available and where they are, for safety and scheduling purposes.

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>



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