

Subject: Please join our next Town Hall, new leave options, face covering info, working from home tips
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 10:19:08 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Marissa Madrigal
To: Marissa Madrigal

****SENT TO ALL EMPLOYEES. PLEASE PRINT AND POST FOR EMPLOYEES WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO EMAIL****

Hello colleagues,

I hope many of you are settling into this “new normal” and safely enjoying the spring weather. I wanted to provide you with a few updates and information about an upcoming Metro town hall.

Supporting people who have been laid off

In the past two weeks, a number of Metro employees were informed they no longer have jobs. We’re doing what we can during this tough transition, including mailing out resources and putting together a fund to provide financial support to people who were affected. Please keep our friends and co-workers who are dealing with this unexpected hardship in your thoughts. If you have resources that would be helpful to share please send them to [Grady Wheeler in Communications](#).

Town hall Thursday, April 23 at 10 a.m.

We will be hosting another digital town hall on Thursday, April 23 at 10 a.m. We’ll provide an update on Metro’s finances, next steps in budgeting, and will answer your questions.

Webinar ID: 981 9579 0119

Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/98195790119>

Call: 346-248-7799 or 888 475 4499 (toll free)

If you have question ahead of time, again please send them to [Grady Wheeler in Communications](#).

New leave options

Julio Garcia, Metro human resources director, sent out an email yesterday outlining two new leave options under the Families First Act. If you are caring for children out of school due to COVID-19 or need take COVID-19 related sick leave to care for yourself or a family member, these leave options may be helpful to you. [Here is a link](#) to an overview that includes instructions on how to apply for these leave benefits.

As always, additional information about COVID-19 policies and procedures, including the most recent town hall and all of my all staff emails, are available at oregonmetro.gov/covid-19.

Face covering options for staff reporting to worksites

In addition to following CDC guidance about physical distancing, hand sanitizers and reminders to wash hands, Metro’s been adapting to the CDC’s advisory for people to wear for face coverings in public. Colleagues from across Metro have been making face coverings for employees who report to a worksite even if they typically don’t wear personal protective equipment.

I want to acknowledge that wearing a face covering in public can be a more complex experience for people of color. This [CNN article "Why some people of color say they won't wear homemade masks"](#) explains the fear some Black and Brown people have about wearing certain kinds of face coverings.

We are being mindful of this. Staff who report to worksites have two options: a balaclava with a filter, and a sewn fabric face covering. If you have received a face covering and would like a different option, please reach out to your supervisor or Nyla Moore on the DEI team. The face covering will be delivered to your workplace.

If you'd like to make your own face covering, you can find helpful guides on the Multnomah County and CDC websites:

- [Multnomah County, Face coverings, masks and COVID-19: what you should know](#)
- [CDC, How to make your own face covering \(sew and no-sew versions\)](#)

Taking care if working from home

I know I'm navigating some of the challenges of working from home. Thankfully, Metro's innovators process improvement program is offering a three-part working from home series to provide community and support, and suggest ways to make your work environment – whatever it looks like right now – feel a little better.

Brandon Goldner, innovator program specialist, will kick the series off on the innovators MetroNet page with information about how teleworkers can support one another and strategies to maintain wellness. You can share the ways you're getting by and send in pictures of your workspaces. [I hope you'll check it out here on the Innovators' MetroNet page.](#)

Stay safe out there, and I hope all of you can make it to the town hall on Thursday.

Sincerely,

Marissa