
OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 1, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 1

Mayor David Holt Announced Restrictions on OKC Restaurants and Bars

Mayor David Holt released new mandates for restaurants, bars and other theatre style venues in an attempt to limit people's exposure to COVID-19. Beginning this Friday, July 3rd, for the next 14 days, all employees of restaurants and bars must wear masks. The capacity at bars will be lowered to 50% to prevent further spread. Mayor Holt also stated all venues with theater-style seating, such as weddings, funerals and churches must have staggered seating with two seats in between each seat. Find out more about the mandates [here](#).

Employer Responsibilities Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

As hotels reopen and are experiencing employees affected by COVID-19, now might be the time to revisit employer responsibilities for helping those employees. You can read this article on FAQ's about the FFCRA [here](#).

Oklahoma COVID-19 Testing Sites

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"Safe Stay" Program Guidelines

Has your property endorsed Safe Stay? Are you rolling out Safe Stay industry standards in your cleaning and guest/employee protocols? Safe Stay is an industry-wide enhanced standard of health and safety protocols. [Safe Stay](#) is designed to prepare America's hotels to safely welcome back guests and employees as the economy reopens. OH&LA highly encourages lodging operations throughout Oklahoma to adopt these guidelines for employee and guest safety. Visit [our website](#) to learn more and download the Version 2 Guidelines. Sign-On to Safe Stay: Please support our industry by showing your hotel as [endorsing Safe Stay](#), an industry-wide initiative aimed at providing a common set of health and cleaning protocols to help hotels.



OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 2, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 2

Tulsa Mayor Mandates Masks on Restaurant and Bar Employees and Announces Safety Program

This afternoon, Tulsa Mayor GT Bynum held a COVID-19 briefing. He has mandated masks for all restaurant and bar employees. So far, he did not put capacity restrictions on bars in Tulsa. He also announced a safety certification program for events of more than 500 people including hotel meeting and banquet events that will go into effect July 16. The safety certification program will have to be approved by the Tulsa City County Health Department. Use this [link](#) to learn more details of the Mayor's announcement.

Mayor David Holt Announces Restrictions on OKC Restaurants and Bars

Yesterday Mayor David Holt released new mandates for restaurants, bars and theatre-style venues in an attempt to limit people's exposure to COVID-19. Beginning this Friday, July 3rd, for the next 14 days, all employees of restaurants and bars must wear masks. The capacity at bars will be lowered to 50% to prevent further spread. Mayor Holt also stated that all venues with theater-style seating, such as weddings, funerals and churches must have staggered seating with two seats in between each seat. Find out more about the mandates [here](#).

Congress Extends PPP through August 8

Yesterday, the House voted by unanimous consent to pass the Senate bill extending the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through August 8. The bill will now go to the President for his signature. This bill does not change the PPP; it simply extends the window to apply for a PPP loan for another five weeks. The original program expired on June 30, with a balance of \$130 billion dollars still available for loans. Once the President signs the bill, it's expected the Small Business Administration will begin taking applications again.

NRA Releases Issues Survey for Next Recovery Priorities

As July 4th draws near, restaurants across the country remain crippled, with challenges that are not going away anytime soon for owners, operators, and employees. For over sixteen weeks, the National Restaurant Association and the ORA have led the charge at the federal, state, and local level in calling for a [comprehensive response](#) from our government. You have answered our calls to action and Congress has heard you – through almost 500,000 emails you've sent to Capitol Hill. Republicans and Democrats are considering whether to craft a [new coronavirus stimulus bill](#) in late July, and they have asked the National Restaurant Association for guidance on how best to assist the industry.

In April, we [wrote congressional leaders](#) to unveil our "Blueprint for Recovery." But as the challenge to our industry evolves, so should our

recovery plan. Working with our membership and our [state restaurant association partners](#), we have a list of potential policy initiatives, but we need your input in identifying which ones to prioritize. We will unveil our updated Blueprint later this month. We have prepared a survey that outlines our ideas, and allows you to rank the ones that would be most impactful for your restaurant or the industry as a whole. Together, we will continue to advance a policy agenda that reflects the unique needs of this vital industry. Please [click here to take this short survey](#). Stay safe and have a great holiday weekend.

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ORA Expo Moves to December 2020?

The ORA announced this week a change of date for the ORA Expo! The new date of for the Expo is Wednesday and Thursday, December 2-3, 2020. This change was made for the well-being and safety of attendees and exhibitors. For the health and safety of attendees and exhibitors, the [ORA Expo Promise](#) will be implemented, which will provide numerous health and safety measures. Please make plans to join us for all of the excitement at the [ORA Expo](#) in December.

The ORA Expo, held at the OK State Fair Park's Bennett Event Center, is Oklahoma's largest industry trade show and the most important of the year for foodservice and hospitality industry professionals, as it will also offer exciting educational sessions, demonstrations, and networking! Easy access, convenient parking, and tons of ORA hospitality make this an event you don't want to miss! Registration is currently open at [oraexpo.com](#).

STR: U.S. Hotel Occupancy Continues to Tick Up

U.S. hotel performance data for the week of June 21-27, 2020, showed another small rise from previous weeks and less severe year-over-year declines, according to STR. Compared to the week of June 23-29, 2019, occupancy declined 38.7 percent to 46.2 percent, average daily rate (ADR)

fell 29 percent to \$95.37, and revenue per available room (RevPAR) decreased 56.5 percent to \$44.03. [Read more.](#)



OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 6, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 6

PPP Loan Data Now Available

The SBA and U.S. Treasury Departments released the latest PPP loan data today. You can find that information [here](#). The National Restaurant Association released this statement today about the need for Congress and the policy makers to use the data to craft additional help:

"Today's release of Paycheck Protection Program loan data provides important insight into the program's success. **We urge federal policymakers to dive into it to determine how best to devise support for small businesses like restaurants that are clearly on the ropes.** Countless hotels and restaurants across the country used a PPP loan to keep their employees on the payroll, but they are emerging from the program with challenges that have only grown in scope. For many, this uncertainty will linger until a vaccine is available. The PPP has been a bridge for many during the shutdown, but the restaurant industry is still looking at months of starts and stops to find a new normal in business operations. We encourage Congress and the Administration to consider bipartisan options to support the industry's recovery."

Meet Our New OH&LA Secretary: David Davis

David Davis, who is the Vice President of Operations for New Century Hotels has long been an advocate for the lodging industry. Currently, he has earned his PhD and certifications including CHA, CHE and CHIA. For many years, David has advanced hospitality education as an Interim Director, and most recently as an Adjunct Professor at the OSU School of Hospitality & Tourism Management program in Stillwater. He also regularly volunteers his time as an industry evaluator for OH&LA's HospitAbilities program. Prior to joining higher education, David spent nine years as a general manager with John Q. Hammons Hotels.

New City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The ORA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Below are several emergency proclamations and executive orders based on city health departments and city mayors. We will include more as they are released:

- Bethany
 - [Emergency Declaration](#)
- OKC
 - [Emergency Order](#)
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4-Step Plan For Bringing Your Hospitality Workforce Back To Work

As hotels, resorts, casinos and restaurants reopen, there are challenges around every corner. Every location must reimagine processes and develop new protocols, procedures and policies. Courtesy of our partner Fisher Philips, here's a [four-step process](#) for safely bringing your employees back to work and enacting protocols that fit your hotel's routine.

Tulsa & OKC Mayors Announce Restrictions

Last week Tulsa Mayor GT Bynum held a COVID-19 briefing where he mandated masks for all restaurant and bar employees. So far, he did not put capacity restrictions on bars in Tulsa. He also announced a safety certification program effective July 16, for events of more than 500 people including hotel meeting and banquet events. The safety certification program will have to be approved by the Tulsa City County Health Department. Use [this link](#) to learn more details of the Mayor's announcement.

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 7, 2020

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 8, 2020

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COVID-19 Membership Update: July 8

One Question - OH&LA Update Poll

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 9, 2020



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 9

Phase 2: Oklahoma Business Relief Program Grants

Phase 2 begins at 8 a.m. on July 14. Many participating financial institutions are continuing to work with businesses interested in applying to gather the required information in advance. OBRP offers funding for businesses that have suffered revenue loss due to the pandemic. Businesses submit their applications through participating financial institutions, which are listed on the Commerce website. Phase 2 will open up another \$50 million, and it is anticipated that the funds will go even faster, as business owners and financial institutions have additional time to prepare. [Learn more.](#)

McConnell Calls for 5-year Lawsuit Shield for Businesses

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell outlined new details this week of what he wants to see in the next and potentially final coronavirus relief package, including a five-year liability shield for businesses and a possible new round of stimulus checks aimed at workers making \$40,000 a year and less.

- McConnell spoke at a series of events in Louisville, during a two-week congressional recess. They laid down markers for Democrats ahead of what promise to be contentious negotiations when Congress reconvenes on July 20.
- He intends to release a new bill as the starting point for talks that will take place with coronavirus cases surging anew and economic pain still racking the nation.
- He said the next bill will include liability protections for businesses, health-care providers, universities and schools.

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 10, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 10

STR Hotel Occupancy Updates

For the first time in 12 weeks, hotel occupancy dipped over the July 4 weekend. Occupancy was 45.6% for the week ended July 4, down from 46.2% the prior week, [according to STR](#). Occupancy had risen in week-to-week comparisons for 11 straight weeks since April.

New City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 13, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 13

New \$5 Per Employee SafeStay Training Course Available

To further expand the hotel industry's [Safe Stay initiative](#), AHLA announced [COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#), an online course developed in partnership with [AHLEI](#) and created to help hotels train their staff on the [Safe Stay Enhanced Safety and Cleanliness Guidelines](#). This new employee training course represents a united industry approach around the Safe Stay guidelines endorsed by all major U.S. hotel brands to ensuring the health and safety of guests and employees while continuing to provide outstanding service.

OH&LA encourages all hotels to enroll as a Safe Stay property, which means at a minimum your hotel pledges to train and implement the health and safety practices in the enhanced guidelines.

Additionally, members now have the opportunity to support their employees and guests by providing special health and safety training for \$5 per employee. Any hotel employee is eligible for the training. Click here to view:

- Presentation: [An training overview of COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#)
- Flyer: [A downloadable one-page flyer about the training course](#)
- Link to enroll: [Training and Certificate of Completion](#)

Steps to Become a Safe Stay Hotel

Safe Stay is endorsed by all major U.S. hotel brands, associations in all 50 states, and Canada and is quickly becoming the industry's go-to guidelines. What steps can your hotel take to become an AH&LA Safe Stay Hotel?

- Study the [Safe Stay Guidelines for Enhanced Cleaning](#). If your property chooses to comply;
- Click [here](#) to endorse Safe Stay and then;
- Log-in to your [AHLA account](#) and download the available Resources
- Train your staff on the Safe Stay protocols and utilize the resources available;
- Communicate your endorsement at a Safe Stay property;
- Consider the Certificate of Completion training option for your employees. The cost is just \$5 per employee. If you are an independent hotel member of the AH&LA training for your first 10 employees is free

Business Sign Kit & Free COVID-19 Testing

The Oklahoma Health Department has provided [free COVID-19 business signage](#) for you to utilize. These signs can be displayed around your business to help remind customers to remain cautious, social distance and provide direction for entrances, elevators and break rooms. These can be downloaded, printed or shared and are available in both English and Spanish format.

Each county health department also provides [free COVID-19 tests](#) for the general public, so you can be tested as often as necessary. They're offered once per week, every other week. Find out more details by contacting the

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 14, 2020

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COVID-19 Membership Update: July 14

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Paycheck Protection Program Extended to Aug 8th

The SBA's Paycheck Protection Program began accepting new applications on July 6th and will continue to accept applications through August 8th. If you have not previously received a PPP loan, you are encouraged to speak to your lender and determine if a loan is appropriate for your business. The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met, and the funds are used for eligible expenses. To apply, [click here](#).

AHLA Webinar: Navigating Challenges of the Pandemic

Tomorrow at 2pm, AHLA will be hosting a webinar regarding insiders' takes on the current situation facing our industry and much more. Jon Bortz and Greg Juceam will host a wide-ranging discussion on navigating the challenges of the pandemic and preparing operations for reopening. [Register here.](#)

AHLA Webinar: Helping Employees Cope with Racism

On Monday July 20th at 1pm, AHLA will host a webinar in regards to minority employees in the hospitality industry being disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. additional forms of trauma, combined with the stress of the pandemic, lead to even more negative mental health outcomes. [Register here.](#)

Back of the House Design Strategies for COVID-19

Mitigating the potential spread of the coronavirus means adding layers of protection to reduce risks of contamination. Since person-to-person transmission is the primary source of infection, strategies focus on reconfiguring your restaurant to maximize social distancing and sanitation. In addition to the food safety practices you already use, perhaps the best way to help ensure your back of the house setup minimizes contact points is to reconfigure the flow of food through your restaurant in the same way you've done for people. The National Restaurant Association has provided [specific guidance on how to do this.](#)

Local Businesses: COVID-19 Products & Services

In order to serve our members in recovery and restart efforts, the Oklahoma Restaurant Association has developed a "live" google document that has been continuously updated by businesses who offer products and services specific to COVID-19 recovery efforts, as well as a list of providers for menu and promotional solutions. This document has been available since April, but has been updated very regularly, so check it out! Relative businesses may at any time add themselves to [this list.](#)

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 15, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 15

Add Your Voice to the Fight!

OH&LA has been working alongside the NRA to develop a roadmap for the recovery across the state and country. This [Blueprint for Revival](#) was put together with input from our industry. A \$120 billion recovery fund and a second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding has been considered to be the top goal to pursue in our advocacy agenda. We've stated what we need. Congress will discuss their final COVID-19 relief for 2020 and it's imperative that we make a strong final push to get this done.

[Take action now!](#)

OH&LA To Host Virtual Meeting: July 21 at 3:30pm

As things rapidly change, the OH&LA has released "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being". This pledge gives guidance to operators and outlines a hotel's pledge to take the proper steps when an employee is ill or has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19.

The OH&LA will be hosting a zoom meeting to discuss the Pledge, answer questions and discuss best practices as we navigate the challenges we are facing. [Register](#) in advance.

More About the Pledge:

Elements of "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being" include the steps hotels will take with Employees Who Are Ill, Employees with COVID-19 Symptoms at Work, COVID-19 Exposed Employees with No Symptoms, Contact Tracing Employees Exposed to COVID-19, Clean and Disinfect and Returning to Work. OH&LA has developed the guidelines in cooperation with the State Health Department and the Health Departments in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. We encourage all hotels to embrace the pledge by establishing these protocols and posting the pledge in their hotel to instill confidence with guests.

Moderna's Vaccine Ready to Advance to Final Phase of Testing

The first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. increased test subjects' immune systems. The shots are ready to begin key final testing. The final phase involves a 30,000-person study to prove if the shots really are strong enough to protect against the virus. [Learn more.](#)

New Tax Credits Available

There are three new tax credits for paid sick leave:

- The employer credit for paid sick leave
- The employer credit for paid family leave
- And the employee retention credit for businesses affected by COVID-19.

If your employees qualify for paid sick and family leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), please remember that you can

claim a tax credit to cover the costs. You don't have to wait for the IRS to send you the reimbursement. Instead, employers may reduce the amount of federal employment taxes they deposit with the IRS in a calendar quarter by the amount of the qualified leave wages paid in that quarter. For more information, please review the IRS's FAQs [here](#).

New \$5 Per Employee SafeStay Training Course Available

To further expand the hotel industry's [Safe Stay initiative](#), AH&LA announced [COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#), an online course developed in partnership with [AHLEI](#) and created to help hotels train their staff on the [Safe Stay Enhanced Safety and Cleanliness Guidelines](#). This new employee training course represents a united industry approach around the Safe Stay guidelines endorsed by all major U.S. hotel brands to ensuring the health and safety of guests and employees while continuing to provide outstanding service.

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- Presentation: [An training overview of COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#)
- Flyer: [A downloadable one-page flyer about the training course](#)
- Link to enroll: [Training and Certificate of Completion](#)

Steps to Become a Safe Stay Hotel

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- Click [here](#) to endorse Safe Stay and then;
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- Train your staff on the Safe Stay protocols and utilize the resources available;
- Communicate your endorsement at a Safe Stay property;
- Consider the Certificate of Completion training option for your employees. The cost is just \$5 per employee. If you are an independent hotel member of the AH&LA training for your first 10 employees is free

Paycheck Protection Program Extended to Aug 8th

The SBA's Paycheck Protection Program began accepting new applications on July 6th and will continue to accept applications through August 8th. If you have not previously received a PPP loan, you are encouraged to speak to your lender and determine if a loan is appropriate for your business. The

Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met, and the funds are used for eligible expenses. To apply, [click here](#).

AHLA Webinar: Helping Employees Cope with Racism

On Monday July 20th at 1pm, AHLA will host a webinar in regards to minority employees in the hospitality industry being disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. additional forms of trauma, combined with the stress of the pandemic, lead to even more negative mental health outcomes. [Register here](#).

New City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The ORA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Below are several emergency proclamations and executive orders based on city health departments and city mayors. We will include more as they are released:

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 16, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 16

Oklahoma City Council to Vote in Mask Mandate Tomorrow

This afternoon, at least one media outlet posted a story stating the Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is recommending the city close restaurants and bars. ORA believes this story to be misleading.

The facts are that closing restaurants and bars is one of five recommendations by the OCCHD to the Oklahoma City Council and closures were the last recommendation made by the OCCHD – not the first.

Mayor Holt has assured the OH&LA that the only item to be considered for a vote by the Oklahoma City Council tomorrow will be mandatory masks. The only question will be if it receives the seven votes needed to go into effect immediately.

The OH&LA will continue to keep you informed as information is available.

OH&LA Virtual Event: July 21 • 3:30 pm "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being".

As things rapidly change, the OH&LA prepares to release "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being". This pledge gives guidance to operators and outlines a hotel's pledge to take the proper steps when an employee is ill or has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19.

The OH&LA will be hosting a zoom call on July 21 at 3:00 pm to discuss the Pledge, answer questions and discuss best practices as we navigate the challenges we are facing. [Register](#) in advance.

More About the Pledge:

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AHLA Urges Administration, Governors and Mayors to Mandate Face Coverings in 50 States

AHLA today urged the Trump Administration, Governors and local officials to follow the lead of the more than two dozen states and countless cities that have standardized the use of face coverings in all indoor public spaces. Our letters to the [National Governors Association \(NGA\)](#) and the [United States Conference of Mayors \(USCM\)](#) and to the [Trump Administration](#) stressed that the use of face coverings by guests in hotels will instill confidence with other guests and employees that hotels are indeed safe places to visit and work.

Hospitality Laundry:

Remaining Guest Ready in the COVID-19 World Webinar

The COVID-19 pandemic has mandated adoption of new protocols across the hotel experience. For hotel employees, a densely populated laundry room presents a high-risk area in which CDC guidelines for physical distancing are hard to enforce.

In this webinar, PureStar, North America's leading provider of outsourced laundry services to the hospitality industry, will share insight from their 100 years of combined experience across 30 laundry facilities to help AHLA members safely process their laundry within the new expectations for sanitization.

Topics include:

- How to social distance and still process soiled linen effectively in a small onsite facility
- Training employees on safe handling of soiled sheets and towels
- Ensuring onsite equipment can operate at temperatures necessary to sterilize linen
- Identifying correct chemical wash formulas necessary to eliminate viruses

Tuesday, July 28

2pm EDT

[Register Here](#)

Add Your Voice to the Fight!

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[Take action now!](#)

Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights

As a reminder, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Department of Labor's (Department) Wage and Hour Division (WHD) administers and enforces the new law's paid leave

requirements. These provisions will apply from the effective date through December 31. For details [visit](#).

Legal Resource Center: Here to Help You

We understand these are tough times for all in our industry. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many restaurants are forgoing legal help for fear of accruing expenses they won't be able to pay. We want to remind you that the ORA Legal Resource Center is here to help with any questions you might have. This can include:

- Landlord/Tenant negotiations and lease review; Vendor negotiations;
- Policies & Procedures including employee and customer health, and other compliance requirements;
- and more.

Our partners at Barrow & Grimm in Tulsa and Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger & Green in OKC are here to help. To access this assistance, send an email to legal@okrestaurants.com or call [800.375.8181](tel:800.375.8181) and ask for Chandy Rice.

New \$5 Per Employee SafeStay Training Course Available

To further expand the hotel industry's [Safe Stay initiative](#), AH&LA announced [COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#), an online course developed in partnership with [AHLEI](#) and created to help hotels train their staff on the [Safe Stay Enhanced Safety and Cleanliness Guidelines](#). This new employee training course represents a united industry approach around the Safe Stay guidelines endorsed by all major U.S. hotel brands to ensuring the health and safety of guests and employees while continuing to provide outstanding service.

OH&LA encourages all hotels to enroll as a Safe Stay property, which means at a minimum your hotel pledges to train and implement the health and safety practices in the enhanced guidelines.

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- Presentation: [An training overview of COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#)
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New City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The ORA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Below are several emergency proclamations and executive orders based on city health departments and city mayors. We will include more as they are released:

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Oklahoma City Council Votes In Favor of Mandated Masks

1 message



Oklahoma City Council Votes In Favor of Mandated Masks

Mayor David Holt of OKC signed a face mask ordinance into effect, after the Oklahoma City Council voted 6-3 on Friday, July 17th in favor of the order. It was then voted 7-3 to become **effective immediately**. Citizens are required to wear a face covering or face shield over both their nose and mouth when inside a commercial business or other structure, building or space open to the public. Masks will also be required in an outdoor space when unable to social distance staying 6 feet apart unless they are from the same household. Exemptions apply to those 10 years and younger, those individuals with developmental disabilities, the deaf or those who are hard of hearing. Non-compliance penalties will be enforced.

The full ordinance for Oklahoma City will be released soon. OH&LA will continue to keep you informed as information is available. If you have questions regarding the ordinance, feel free to [contact us](#).



OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 20, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 20

OH&LA Virtual Event: July 21 • 3:30 pm **"Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being".**

As things rapidly change, the OH&LA prepares to release "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being". This pledge gives guidance to operators and outlines a hotel's pledge to take the proper steps an employer should take when an employee is ill or has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19.

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More About the Pledge:

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Free 'Masks Required' Signs for You To Utilize

As an OH&LA member resource, and in light of masks mandated around the state of Oklahoma, we would like to provide [a free downloadable "Masks Required" sign](#) for you to print and post at your businesses entrance.

If you have questions regarding these signs, city ordinances, or any other matter related to COVID-19, feel free to [contact us](#).

Common Questions and Answers Regarding OKC's New Mandates

Here are some [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding OKC's new mandated masks requirements.

Guests and Masks - What the Top Hotel CEOs are Saying

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) today released the ["Safe Stay Guest Checklist"](#) for guests on how to travel safely while also creating a standardized safety experience nationwide. This checklist is part of AHLA's [Safe Stay](#) guidelines, an industry-wide, enhanced set of health and safety protocols designed to provide a safe and clean environment for all hotel guests and employees. Click here to read what the top hotel company CEOs are saying about masks in hotels. [Click here](#) to read the [Safe Stay Guest Checklist](#) which includes a requirement for guests to wear masks.

COVID-19 Alert System

A new [COVID-19 alert system](#) was developed to demonstrate the risk categories for each county in Oklahoma. This 4-color, county-by-county alert system was built using the White House's methodology model for new cases per 100,000 population. In order for a county to be elevated to the ["red risk" category](#), one of four additional gates must be met that would indicate emerging challenges in the delivery of healthcare services.

Hospitality Laundry:

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Tuesday, July 28
2pm EDT

[Register Here](#)

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Upcoming Webinar

Interested in becoming a Safe Stay Hotel? [Register](#) for this webinar and find out how! The Safe Stay Webinar, date is Wednesday, July 29th at 2pm CST. On this webinar AHLA be providing the latest updates on the guidelines and reviewing the resources available including the Safe Stay online employee training course, the "Safe Stay Guest Checklist" and more!

STR Monthly Report: June 2020

COVID-19 has altered the way industries are operating around the world. STR is no exception as data is being collected through a period challenged by widespread property closures and the repurposing of hotels in the fight against the pandemic. With that in mind, we want to bring to your attention the impact on the June results. [Click here to see the STR Monthly Report for June 2020.](#)

Contactless Check-in App

AHLA is putting together an online listing of all the hotel mobile apps that allow for contactless check-in. [Please email AHLA](#) the links to download your app and your app will be added to an online list designed to help guests and employees have a Safe Stay.

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The ORA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 21, 2020

1 message



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 21

Economic Priorities for the Hotel Industry

As lawmakers consider additional legislation to address the ongoing health crisis and economic fallout, AHLA sent a letter to Congress calling for additional help in [these following areas](#), including extending the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for severely impacted businesses and their employees, creating targeted lending facilities and liquidity measures to help hoteliers meet debt service, and passing tax reforms to benefit both hotel employees and employers. [A copy of the letter can be found here](#). Together, these provisions will help ensure hotels can retain and rehire employees, protect employees and guests, keep hotel doors open, and incentivize Americans to travel again when it's safe.

Two Question Poll about In-Person OHLA STR Luncheon

OH&LA in partnership with STR annually hosts an STR Forecasting Session during a luncheon at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. This year, the event is scheduled for September 8th in Oklahoma City. The current state and local guidance do not prohibit a group this size from gathering. OH&LA would like to poll our members about holding this as an in-person event. [Please help us by responding to this poll asap.](#)

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 22, 2020

1 message



*This issue brought to you by
OH&LA Partner:*



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 22

Take Action: No New Tariffs on Food & Alcohol

The Administration is conducting a review of actions in regards to tariffs of up to 100% on food and alcohol products from the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK). The list includes seafood, dairy products, ham, fruit products, pasta, coffee, olive oil, chocolate, potatoes, baked products, wines, whiskey, beer, gin, brandy, vodka and other food products. If enacted, the tariffs would significantly impact restaurants, profoundly affecting our supply chains and operations. The deadline for comments from our industry is this **Sunday, July 26**.

[Please add your voice!](#)

Webinar Recording: Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being

OH&LA hosted a zoom call yesterday regarding "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being" and guidelines and best practices in regards to an employee that has been exposed or diagnosed with COVID-19. You can view a recording of the webinar [here](#), and download the Pledge [here](#).

The call also provided a quick review for stipulations under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights. You can access the full Act [here](#).

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As lawmakers consider additional legislation to address the ongoing health crisis and economic fallout, AHLA sent a letter to Congress calling for additional help in [these following areas](#), including extending the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for severely impacted businesses and their employees, creating targeted lending facilities and liquidity measures to help hoteliers meet debt service, and passing tax reforms to benefit both hotel employees and employers. [A copy of the letter can be found here](#). Together, these provisions will help ensure hotels can retain and rehire employees, protect employees and guests, keep hotel doors open, and incentivize Americans to travel again when it's safe.

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Common Questions and Answers Regarding Tulsa's Mask Mandate

Last week, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum signed a face mask emergency order now in effect. A full copy of the emergency order is in the last story of this publication, however, [here are some frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding Tulsa's mandated masks requirements.

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 23, 2020

1 message



*This issue brought to you by
OH&LA Partner:*



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 23

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[Please add your voice!](#)

Mask FAQ: Refusing Service to Someone Who Won't Wear a Mask But Claims to Have a Medical Reason

A restaurant should try not to refuse service to someone with a legitimate disability, but it can be hard to know who has a disability and who does not. The challenge is that under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you cannot ask what the disability is or for documentation. [Learn more here.](#)

[Fake Face mask exemption ID cards](#) are also currently going viral around the country. The DOJ declared last week that it has not issued ID cards and does not endorse any such identification. Be on the lookout for these ID cards.

Our Pledge to Safety & Well Being: Updated

As science and CDC recommendations change in response to best practices for combating COVID-19 we have updated the Pledge to Safety. The current changes address new protocols for an employee returning to work and also contact tracing. See the updated Pledge [here.](#)

Webinar Recording: Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being

OH&LA hosted a zoom call yesterday regarding "Our Hotel's Pledge to Safety and Well Being" and guidelines and best practices in regards to an

employee that has been exposed or diagnosed with COVID-19. You can view a recording of the webinar [here](#), and download the Pledge [here](#).

The call also provided a quick review for stipulations under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights. You can access the full Act [here](#).

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The ORA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Below are several emergency proclamations and executive orders based on city health departments and city mayors. We will include more as they are released:

- Altus
 - [Emergency Order](#)
- Bethany
 - [Emergency Declaration](#)
- Claremore
 - [Claremore Mask Resolution](#)
- Edmond
 - [Revised Declaration of Emergency](#)
- Lawton
 - [New Mask Ordinance](#)
- Midwest City
 - [Midwest City Ordinance](#)
- Norman
 - [Norman Ordinance](#)
- OKC
 - [Emergency Mask Order](#)
- Tulsa
 - [Emergency Mask Order](#)
- Sapulpa
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- Stillwater
 - [Stillwater Ordinance](#)
- The Village
 - [Emergency Mask Order](#)
- Yukon
 - [Emergency Proclamation](#)

**Note: This is the most up-to-date information available at the time this email was sent. Some information may have changed since then, so we encourage you to check other sources as well.*

OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 24, 2020

1 message



*This issue brought to you by
OH&LA Partner:*



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 24

Two Question Poll about In-Person OHLA STR Luncheon

OH&LA in partnership with STR annually hosts an STR Forecasting Session during a luncheon at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. This year, the event is scheduled for September 8th in Oklahoma City. The current state and local guidance do not prohibit a group this size from gathering. OH&LA would like to poll our members about holding this as an in-person event.

[Please help us by responding to this poll asap.](#)

National Day of Action: Save Hotel Jobs

National Day of Action: Save Hotel Jobs starts next **Wednesday, July 29th**. This effort is designed to provide a platform to support legislative action. While Congress is actively debating the next recovery package, now is the time to amplify our engagement. On July 29th we want 100,000 of your letters to flood the offices of Members of Congress. Please add the date to your calendar Urge Congress to support hotel jobs in the next relief package. [Take action now and help save our industry!](#)

Our Pledge to Safety & Well Being: Updated

As science and CDC recommendations change in response to best practices for combating COVID-19 we have updated the Pledge to Safety. The current changes address new protocols for an employee returning to work and also contact tracing. See the updated Pledge [here](#).

Oklahoma Contact Tracing Now Includes Text Messages

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) announces today that its [contact tracing outreach efforts will include text messaging](#). This functionality will help streamline the process for contact tracers as they reach out to individuals who have been in close contact with infected individuals. Oklahoma currently has 300 contact tracers and case investigators, with 160 additional staff in training. Each positive person will be notified of cases automatically as soon as their information is entered into the contact tracing system.

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The OH&LA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 27, 2020

1 message



*This issue brought to you by
OH&LA Partner:*



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 27

National Day of Action This Wednesday: Save Hotel Jobs

National Day of Action: Save Hotel Jobs starts this **Wednesday, July 29th**. This effort is designed to provide a platform to support legislative action. While Congress is actively debating the next recovery package, now is the time to amplify our engagement. On July 29th we want 100,000 of your letters to flood the offices of Members of Congress. Please add the date to your calendar Urge Congress to support hotel jobs in the next relief package. [Take action now and help save our industry!](#)

PPP forgiveness

Borrowers and their advisers might be eager to move ahead with the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgiveness process, but the Small Business Administration and Treasury have yet to issue expected FAQs. Certain questions remain related to topics such as self-employment and what counts as a utility under PPP rules. We would advise you to not rush this process, and [consider these tips](#) before proceeding.

Oklahoma Contact Tracing Now Includes Text Messages

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) announces today that its [contact tracing outreach efforts will include text messaging](#). This functionality will help streamline the process for contact tracers as they reach out to individuals who have been in close contact with infected individuals. Oklahoma currently has 300 contact tracers and case investigators, with 160 additional staff in training. Each positive person will be notified of cases automatically as soon as their information is entered into the contact tracing system.

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 29, 2020

1 message



*This issue brought to you by
OH&LA Partner:*



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 29

Today is National Day of Action! Save Hotel Jobs

National Day of Action: Save Hotel Jobs starts today. This effort is designed to provide a platform to support legislative action. While Congress is actively debating the next recovery package, now is the time to amplify our engagement. **We want 100,000 of your letters to flood the offices of Members of Congress.** Urge Congress to support hotel jobs in the next relief package. **[It only takes a few seconds to help save our industry!](#)**

HEALS Act Introduced

Early this week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced the [HEALS Act \(Health Economic Assistance Liability Protection and Schools\)](#). This is the Republican version of a relief bill for the economy and will be the starting point for negotiations with the Democrats and the White House.

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The OH&LA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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OH&LA Hotel Industry Recovery: July 31, 2020

1 message



*This issue brought to you by
OH&LA Partner:*



COVID-19 Membership Update: July 31

OH&LA Quarterly Member Event: 2020 STR Forecasting Luncheon on Sept 8th

We look forward to welcoming back STR who will provide a 2020 review and 2021 Forecasting Luncheon, which will provide interesting data considering the effect COVID-19 has had on the lodging industry. Our guest and presenter is Vail Ross, CMHS, Senior Vice President of Global Business Development & Marketing.

Please join other lodging professionals for this event which has been modified from the past to include plenty of social distancing and health and safety protocols to keep attendees safe while we gather to learn about very important data for projecting 2021 business while we also enjoy networking with others from the industry. Only the STR Forecasting Luncheon followed by the OHLA Board of Directors Meeting will be held. No committee meetings will be held. [Click here](#) to learn more and register!

OH&LA Welcomes New Board Members

Please help OHLA welcome two new members to our Board of Directors! Skip Harless, GM of the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City and Steve Keenan, GM of the soon to open Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. They each have a long and impressive history in the lodging industry, and OHLA looks forward to their involvement and leadership!

AHLA Applauds Introduction of Bipartisan HOPE Act

AHLA expressed support for the Helping Open Properties Endeavor (HOPE) Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by to provide borrowers of commercial mortgages with financial assistance through the HOPE Preferred Equity lending facility. The bill would help prevent commercial real estate foreclosures and protect jobs in the hospitality industry. [More info here.](#)

Gratitude from AHLA

Your incredible support for AHLA's Save Hotel Jobs National Day of Action made a significant difference! Thanks to you, we shattered all previous AHLA grassroots records! Here are the two things you need to know today:

You are making a difference! We made our voice heard loud and clear where it counts most right now - on Capitol Hill. As Congress continues to debate what could be the final Covid-19 relief bill of 2020, your outreach during our National Day of Action could not have happened at a more important time. Thanks to you, we achieved these incredible results:

- **Sent over 26,000 letters, phone calls and tweets to Members of Congress.**
- Contacted 531 Members of Congress, representing all 50 states.
- Since the crisis began, we have engaged nearly 170,000 times with Members of Congress and have gained 43,416 new advocates.

New \$5 Per Employee SafeStay Training Course Available

To further expand the hotel industry's [Safe Stay initiative](#), AHLA announced [COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels](#), an online course developed in partnership with [AHLEI](#) and created to help hotels train their staff on the [Safe Stay Enhanced Safety and Cleanliness Guidelines](#). This new employee training course represents a united industry approach around the Safe Stay guidelines endorsed by all major U.S. hotel brands to ensuring the health and safety of guests and employees while continuing to provide outstanding service.

OH&LA encourages all hotels to enroll as a Safe Stay property, which means at a minimum your hotel pledges to train and implement the health and safety practices in the enhanced guidelines.

Additionally, members now have the opportunity to support their employees and guests by providing special health and safety training for \$5 per employee. Any hotel employee is eligible for the training. Click here to view:

- [Presentation](#): An training overview of COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels
- [Flyer](#): A downloadable one-page flyer about the training course
- [Link to enroll](#): Training and Certificate of Completion

Steps to Become a Safe Stay Hotel

Safe Stay is endorsed by all major U.S. hotel brands, associations in all 50 states, and Canada and is quickly becoming the industry's go-to guidelines. What steps can your hotel take to become an AH&LA Safe Stay Hotel?

- Study the [Safe Stay Guidelines for Enhanced Cleaning](#). If your property chooses to comply;
- [Click here](#) to endorse Safe Stay and then; Log-in to your [AHLA account](#) and download the available Resources

- Train your staff on the Safe Stay protocols and utilize the resources available;
- Communicate your endorsement at a Safe Stay property;
- Consider the Certificate of Completion training option for your employees. The cost is just \$5 per employee. If you are an independent hotel member of the AH&LA training for your first 10 employees is free.

HEALS Act Introduced

Early this week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced the [HEALS Act \(Health Economic Assistance Liability Protection and Schools\)](#). This is the Republican version of a relief bill for the economy and will be the starting point for negotiations with the Democrats and the White House. As of today, there is not an agreement between all those negotiating the details of the next relief package. Next week will be crucial to get an agreement that can pass both Houses of Congress and gain the President's signature prior to the August recess of Congress. Next week, we will share a call to action so you can contact our Congressional delegation and ask them to save Oklahoma Restaurants and the jobs they provide. ORA will keep you informed as there are further developments.

City Emergency Proclamations: COVID-19 Guidance

Multiple cities have released updated Emergency Proclamations. The ORA has continued to remain instrumental in providing input to state officials in order to help keep our businesses open and safe. [Here](#) you will find several cities' emergency proclamation and executive orders based on city health departments and city mayors. We will include more as they are released.

