Update on Office of Administrative Hearings Operating Status during COVID-19 Emergency

What is our operating status?

Along with the rest of District government, our agency remains operational however, we have made changes to how services are being provided. For the week of March 23, 2020, hearings have been suspended, except genuine emergencies, as we determine how to continue prioritizing Unemployment Insurance and Public Benefits cases with minimal risks to our employees. We fully plan to resume those hearings and be back to our modified operating schedule the following week.

How does this impact what we do?

- **Adjudication Services –** modified service. Priority will be given to Public Benefits and Unemployment Insurance cases. Non-essential hearings have been cancelled until further notice.
- **Payment Collection –** suspended. Penalties and fees will not be assessed.
- **Recruitment** - modified service. We will continue to post new positions and accept applications. No in-person interviews will take place until further notice.

How does this impact our physical locations?

- OAH will be closed to the public until further notice.

What else are we offering to meet your needs?

- **Conduct Essential Hearings Remotely –** For matters related to Public Benefits and Unemployment Insurance, OAH will conduct hearings by phone to the extent resources and infrastructure allow.

What precautions are we taking to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Our employees are taking precautions to keep themselves healthy and limit the spread of infections like regularly washing their hands, cleaning facilities more frequently, and reducing close contact with each other and residents. Employees have been asked to let their supervisor know immediately if they feel sick.

Where should you go if you have questions?

For questions about any of the services we provide and information on any future changes, please contact us at (202) 442-9094 or check the website at oah.dc.gov. For more information, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.