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August 19, 2020

This document is available in alternative format upon request

Dear Public Housing Resident:

This letter is to provide you with updated information as to temporary changes to the Public Housing Program to protect tenants and HA staff.

As you know the HHA is providing service in a manner to limit in person contact. Where possible services will be performed by mail, e mail, telephone and fax. The HHA has amended our policies to accept electronic signatures and alternative forms of documentation where possible during this pandemic.

In April we informed you of some temporary changes to the program approved by HUD, these changes are still in place and in some cases the dates have been extended by HUD. The original letter from April is enclosed and is also posted on our web site at http://www.hudsonhousing.org/ and the new extended dates are also on our web site in a checklist form which was provided by HUD. This website also contains additional Covid-19 resources and information. Please contact the HHA if you have any questions.

HUD recently approved a new change. Under this provision, the HHA will not be performing annual unit inspections. This does not mean that your unit should not be safe and sanitary. You can always request an inspection from HHA if you would like an inspection or there is something wrong in your unit. We are just not requiring inspections right now. This is until December 31, 2020 unless the time is extended by HUD.

Domestic Violence

The HHA can still process requests for protections under VAWA. Shelter-in-place policies in the U.S. do not require anyone to stay in a violent or unhealthy situation, police officers can still visit any facility that is restricting visitors to respond to 911 calls. For help regarding an abusive relationship, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking you may contact: The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or, for persons with hearing impairments, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Covid-19 information and updates

For Covid-19 information and updates https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information. You may also dial 211 for real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. Resources are also available at https://mass211.org/. For additional information in disease control and prevention go to https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

If are experiencing distress the Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

If you have special needs due to COVID-19 the Hudson Housing Authority may be able to assist you and/or provide you with information and resources for support. If that is the case please contact us.

If you are a person with a disability under applicable law and you need a reasonable accommodation please contact the Housing Authority.

On behalf of the HHA, thank you for your patience and cooperation during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Beaulieu, Executive Director