

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY COMPLIANCE

Portal helps businesses keep rules straight

By Kevin Smith
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Grappling with the economic fallout surrounding COVID-19 has been challenging enough for businesses, but how can they ensure they're in compliance with the latest state and local coronavirus-related guidelines?

Enter saferatwork.covid19.ca.gov.

The California Labor & Workforce Development Agency created the online portal as a road map for businesses looking to navigate the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19 safety regulations. The website debuted last week.

A one-stop shop

Daniel Yu, the agency's associate secretary of strategic enforcement and partnership, said the portal was designed as a one-stop-shop where employers can access information that ordinarily would have to be pulled from different sources.

"We understand that there may be anxiety to this with people wondering, 'Have I gone to all the state and local sources?'" he said. "This is an easy-to-use website where employers — especially smaller businesses that may not



PHOTO CREDIT

The California Labor & Workforce Development Agency has created an online portal that businesses can use as a road map to navigate the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19 safety regulations.

have an HR department — can retrieve that information all in one place."

A wealth of information

Business owners or employees who use the portal can access a variety of options, including training and resources, COVID-19 testing, Cal/OSHA's temporary emergency standards and additional information via the Out-

reach Toolkit.

Employers are initially asked which county their business is in and what industry it represents. Companies with multiple operations can select up to six professional activities.

A manufacturing business in Orange County, for example, will first be asked if it has created a site-specific COVID-19 prevention plan and if it has trained work-

ers on how to limit the spread of the virus.

Additional questions address social distancing guidelines and whether the business is providing supplemental paid sick leave under California laws and/or the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Once all of the questions are answered, the employer can download a COVID-19 guidance manual that lays out exactly what the business should be doing to comply with state and local regulations.

The guidance addresses such concerns as risk assessment, training, disinfecting protocols, physical distancing guidelines, employee benefits and how to safely reopen following a COVID-19 case.

"It also has a feature where employers can leave feedback," Yu said. "They can comment on what we've provided and also suggest features they would like us to include. We are committed to improving the portal."

Privacy is protected

The portal doesn't ask for a business name or any other personal information and the data it collects is for educational purposes and will not be used for

state enforcement activities, Yu said.

Tom Barry, a managing partner with the Los Angeles-based accounting and advisory firm GHJ, said some workplace shifts, including remote working, will remain long after COVID-19 is no longer a threat. GHJ helps employers navigate changes associated with COVID-19 safeguards.

"We're never going back to where we were and we won't stay where we are today," Barry said. "It's confusing trying to keep up with the rules. There are as many attitudes on how to react to all of this as there are businesses."

GHJ has 165 employees and all of them now work remotely, either full-time or part-time, Barry said.

"On a busy day we might have two dozen people in our office," he said. "Employees who come to the office have to fill out a health questionnaire and they also have their temperature taken."

Workers must document when they arrive and leave, Barry said, and the company also keeps tabs on who uses the conference room and when it was used.

"That's so we can do contact tracing," he said.

STATUS UPDATE



Samantha Gowen has the latest on movers and shakers in Orange County

Send items about business expansion, milestones and promotions to sgowen@scng.com

Online Alzheimer's conference is Thursday

Alzheimer's Orange County will host a free virtual caregiver conference, Fill Your Cup: Caregiver Strategies, from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Speakers will provide practical tips and techniques to help improve the caregiving experience.

Miriam Galindo, a licensed psychologist, licensed social worker and registered nurse, is a former longtime caregiver for her late father, Henry, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Dung Trinh, the chief medical officer of Irvine Clinical Research, is a physician with Memorial Care and a medical missionary with TongueOut Medical Missions.

Dani Klein Modisett, creator of Laughter On Call, pairs comedians with Alzheimer's patients and trains health care workers and families how to find laughter when they need it most.

To register to participate in the event, visit register.gotowebinar.com/register/292887219604067598.

Coding for girls

In honor of Engineers Week Girl Day and to attract more young girls into computer science fields, Code Ninjas in Los Alamitos-Cypress is offering a free coding session to girls who sign up between Girl Day (Thursday) and International Women's Day (March 8).

Code Ninjas is an after-school program that teaches children as young as 5 how to code. The children progress through nine levels indicated by colored wristbands, similar to belt ranks in a karate dojo. They start with a white wristband and learn how to write code for apps and video games, ultimately reaching black wristband status.

To sign up, call the Los Alamitos-Cypress Code Ninjas location at 562-249-6242 or go to codeninjas.com, click "find a center" and follow the prompts.

On the move



Robinson

Scott Robinson has been promoted to vice president of managed print services at Lake Forest-based Toshiba



CHARLES DHARAPAK — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alzheimer's Orange County will host a free virtual caregiver conference, Fill Your Cup: Caregiver Strategies, from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday. Speakers will aim to educate caregivers and provide them with tips and techniques to help improve their work.

America Business Solutions. He now directs Toshiba's managed print services business throughout North and South America. Robinson previously served as Toshiba's director of operations & acquisitions in the eastern U.S.

Belisa Davis has joined 2-1-1 Orange County, a nonprofit that links residents to health and human resources, as manager of development and sponsorships. She will handle daily activities of 2-1-1 OC's development programs and assist in the creation of goals and strategies for all fundraising campaigns. Previously, Davis worked in a variety of roles for 15 years with the private nonprofit San Felipe Humanitarian Alliance of San Clemente.

Jack Toan has been named the chief operating officer of Orange-based Illumination Foundation, a nonprofit that provides services designed to disrupt the cycle of homelessness in Southern California. Previously, Toan served as vice president of social impact and sustainability for Wells



Toan

Fargo, where he managed the company's \$10 million charitable giving and volunteerism programs in the Southern California region. He replaces Pooja Bhalla, who is the new executive director of the nonprofit's health care services.



COURTESY OF CODE NINJAS LOS ALAMITOS-CYPRESS

To attract more young girls into computer science fields, Code Ninjas in Los Alamitos-Cypress is offering a free coding session to girls who sign up between Thursday and March 8.

Orange County's Credit Union has named Raymond Lam its new vice president of enterprise technology security and promoted Rebecca Bower from vice president of organizational development to chief associate officer.

Bower will continue to support associates and work collaboratively to maintain



Lam

a healthy work environment. Lam will be responsible for planning, directing and managing information security protocols.



Bower

On board

Pretend City Children's Museum in Irvine has added three members to its board of directors. Lillian Chung specializes in working with preschool-age children and their families. She founded Newport Child De-



Chung



Ketchum



Tait

velopment Center serving several preschools. Logan Ketchum is the director of sales and strategic partnerships at Veritone Inc. Trevor Tait is the managing director and managing partner of Tait & Associates.

Funding round

Irvine-based Enevate, a firm that specializes in lithium-ion battery technology in the electric vehicles market, has secured an \$81 million Series E funding led by Fidelity Management & Research Co.

Investors Mission Ventures and Infinite Potential Technologies also participated in the round.

Enevate said the investment would enable the company to expand its pre-production line, and scale and grow. The company plans to hire more with an emphasis on scientists and engineers.

With this latest funding round, Enevate has raised \$191 million.

Good works

The Orange County Community Foundation's third annual Love Is Giving Day, a 24-hour online fundraiser supporting healthy teen relationships, raised \$113,155 for 10 nonprofits.

The participating nonprofits included Casa de la Familia; Find Your Anchor; Initiative to End Family Violence, UC Irvine; Laura's House; LGBTQ Center OC; OC Pride; Orange County Family Justice Center Foundation; Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties; The Priority Center; and Women's Transitional Living Center.

The money will provide the 10 nonprofits with funds to address teens' mental health and wellness as the pandemic continues.

Status Update is compiled from press releases by contributing writer Karen Levin and edited by Business Editor Samantha Gowen. Submit items and high-resolution photos to sgowen@scng.com. Allow at least one week for publication. Items are edited for length and clarity.