



DESERT HEALTHCARE
DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

Employee Handbook

June 2020

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General Employment Policies

Introductory Statement

Welcome! As an employee of Desert Healthcare District (the “District”), you are an important member of a team effort. We hope that you will find your position with the District rewarding, challenging, and productive.

Because our success depends upon the dedication of our employees, we are highly selective in choosing new members of our team. We look to you and the other employees to contribute to the success of the District.

This employee handbook is intended to explain the terms and conditions of employment of all full- and part-time employees and supervisors. Written employment contracts between the Desert Healthcare District and some individuals may supersede some of the provisions of this handbook.

This handbook summarizes the policies and practices in effect at the time of publication. This handbook supersedes all previously issued handbooks and any policy or benefit statements or memoranda that are inconsistent with the policies described here. Your supervisor or manager will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Harassment Discrimination and Retaliation Prevention

Desert Healthcare District is an equal opportunity employer. The District is committed to providing a work environment free of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and disrespectful or other unprofessional conduct based on:

- Race
- Religion (including religious dress and grooming practices)
- Color
- Sex/gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or related medical conditions), sex stereotype, gender identity/gender expression/transgender (including whether or not you are transitioning or have transitioned) and sexual orientation
- National origin
- Ancestry
- Physical or mental disability
- Medical condition
- Genetic information/characteristics
- Marital status/registered domestic partner status
- Age (40 and over)
- Sexual orientation
- Military or veteran status
- Any other basis protected by federal, state or local law or ordinance or regulation

The District also prohibits discrimination, harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. In addition, the District prohibits retaliation against individuals who raise complaints of discrimination or harassment or who participate in workplace investigations.

All such conduct violates District policy.

Harassment Prevention and Training

The District's policy prohibiting harassment applies to all persons involved in the operation of the District. The District prohibits harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct by any employee of the District, including supervisors, managers and co-workers. The District's anti-harassment policy also applies to vendors, customers, independent contractors, unpaid interns, volunteers, persons providing services pursuant to a contract and other persons with whom you come into contact while working.

Prohibited harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations, comments, posts or messages;
- Visual displays such as derogatory and/or sexually-oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests or sexual advances as a condition of continued employment, or to avoid some other loss and offers of employment benefits in return for sexual favors;
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; and
- Communication via electronic media of any type that includes any conduct that is prohibited by state and/or federal law or by District policy.

Sexual harassment does not need to be motivated by sexual desire to be unlawful or to violate this policy. For example, hostile acts toward an employee because of their gender can amount to sexual harassment, regardless of whether the treatment is motivated by sexual desire.

Prohibited harassment is not just sexual harassment but harassment based on any protected category.

All employees shall be required to participate in a District sponsored harassment education and training course within six months of hire and at least once every two-years thereafter. The training programs offered by the District will comply with all local, state, and federal requirements.

Non-Discrimination

The District is committed to compliance with all applicable laws providing equal employment opportunities. This commitment applies to all persons involved in District operations. The District prohibits unlawful discrimination against any job applicant, employee or unpaid intern by any employee of the District, including supervisors and coworkers.

Pay discrimination between employees of the opposite sex or between employees of another race or ethnicity performing substantially similar work, as defined by the California Fair Pay Act and federal law, is prohibited. Pay differentials may be valid in certain situations defined by law.

Employees will not be retaliated against for inquiring about or discussing wages. However, the District is not obligated to disclose the wages of other employees.

Anti-Retaliation

The District will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint or participating in any workplace investigation or complaint process, and will not tolerate or permit retaliation by management, employees or co-workers.

Reasonable Accommodation

Discrimination can also include failing to reasonably accommodate religious practices or qualified individuals with disabilities where the accommodation does not pose an undue hardship.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the District will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any job applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job should contact the Chief Administration Officer and discuss the need for an accommodation. The District will engage in an interactive process with the employee to identify possible accommodations, if any, that will help the applicant or employee perform the job. An applicant, employee or unpaid intern who requires an accommodation of a religious belief or practice (including religious dress and grooming practices, such as religious clothing or hairstyles) should also contact the Chief Administration Officer and discuss the need for an accommodation. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the District will make the accommodation.

The District will not retaliate against you for requesting a reasonable accommodation and will not knowingly tolerate or permit retaliation by management, employees or co-workers.

Complaint Process

If you believe that you have been the subject of harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct, bring your complaint to the Chief Administration Officer or alternatively to the following as soon as possible after the incident:

- Chief Executive Officer
- The District's Legal Counsel

You can bring your complaint to any of these individuals. If you need assistance with your complaint, or if you prefer to make a complaint in person, contact the Chief Administration Officer. Please provide all known details of the incident or incidents, names of individuals involved and names of any witnesses. It would be best to communicate your complaint in writing, but it is not mandatory.

The District encourages all individuals to report any incidents of harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct forbidden by this policy immediately so that complaints can be quickly and fairly resolved.

You also should be aware that the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing investigate and prosecute complaints of prohibited harassment, discrimination and retaliation in employment. If you think you have been harassed or discriminated against or that you have been retaliated against for resisting, complaining or participating in an investigation, you may file a complaint with the appropriate agency. The nearest office can be found by visiting the agency websites at www.dfeh.ca.gov and www.eeoc.gov.

Supervisors must refer all complaints involving harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct to the Chief Administration Officer of the District, so the District can try to resolve the complaint.

When the District receives allegations of misconduct, it will immediately undertake a fair, timely, thorough and objective investigation of the allegations in accordance with all legal requirements. The District will reach reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected.

The District will maintain confidentiality to the extent possible. However, the District cannot promise complete confidentiality. The employer's duty to investigate and take corrective action may require the disclosure of information to individuals with a need to know.

Complaints will be:

- Responded to in a timely manner
- Kept confidential to the extent possible
- Investigated impartially by qualified personnel in a timely manner
- Documented and tracked for reasonable progress
- Given appropriate options for remedial action and resolution
- Closed in a timely manner

If the District determines that harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct has occurred; appropriate and effective corrective and remedial action will be taken in accordance with the circumstances involved. The District will also take appropriate action to deter future misconduct.

Any employee determined by the District to have engaged in harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other prohibited conduct will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to, and including termination. Employees should also know that if they engage in unlawful harassment, they can be held personally liable for the misconduct.

At-Will Employment Status

Desert Healthcare District personnel are employed on an at-will basis. This means that the employment relationship may be terminated at any time with or without reason or advance notice by either the employee or the District. Nothing in this handbook limits the right to terminate at-will employment.

No employee or representative of the District has any authority to enter into an agreement for employment for any specified period of time or to make an agreement for employment on other than at-will terms. Only the Chief Executive Officer of Desert Healthcare District has the authority to make any such agreement, which is binding only if it is in writing.

Nothing in this at-will statement is intended to interfere with an employee's rights to communicate or work with others toward altering the terms and conditions of their employment, such as communications regarding wages, scheduling or other terms of employment.

Right to Revise

This employee handbook contains the employment policies and practices of the Desert Healthcare District in effect at the time of publication. All previously issued handbooks and any inconsistent policy statements or memoranda are superseded.

The District reserves the right to revise, modify, delete, or add to any and all policies, procedures, work rules, or benefits stated in this handbook at any time, except for the policy of at-will employment.

Any written changes to this handbook will be distributed to all employees so that you will be aware of any new policies or procedures. No oral statements or representations can in any way alter the provisions of this handbook.

This handbook contains the entire agreement between you and the District as to the duration of employment and the circumstances under which employment may be terminated. Nothing in this employee handbook or any other personnel document, including benefit plan descriptions, creates or is intended to create a promise or representation of continued employment for any employee.

Nothing in this statement is intended to interfere with your right to communicate or work with others toward altering the terms and conditions of your employment, such as communications regarding wages, scheduling or other terms or conditions of employment.

Hiring

Employment Classifications

Regular Employees

Regular employees are those who are hired to work on a regular schedule. Regular employees may be classified as full-time or part-time.

Full-Time Employees

Regular full-time employees are those who are scheduled for and do work 40 hours per week. Regular full-time employees are eligible for most employee benefits described in this handbook. Benefit eligibility may depend on length of continuous service. Benefit eligibility requirements may also be imposed by the plans themselves or by law.

Part-Time Employees

Part-time employees are those who are scheduled for and do work fewer than 40 hours per week. Part-time employees are eligible for prorated holiday benefits.

Temporary Employees

Temporary employees are those employed for short-term assignments. Short-term assignments generally are periods of three months or fewer; however, such assignments may be extended. Temporary employees are not eligible for employee benefits except those mandated by applicable law.

Inactive Status

Employees who are on any type of leave of absence, work-related or non-work-related, that exceeds any protected state, federal or local leave of absence will be placed on inactive status.

FLSA Classifications

Federal and state laws exempt certain employees from wage and hour requirements, including overtime pay and meal and rest break requirements.

Exempt Classification

Exempt employees must:

1. Be primarily engaged in executive, administrative or professional duties;
2. Regularly and customarily exercise discretion and independent judgment at work; and
3. Earn a salary equivalent to at least twice the state minimum wage for full-time (40 hours/week) work.

Non-Exempt Classification

All other employees generally fall under the non-exempt category. All non-exempt employees are covered by the state and federal wage and hour laws.

Job Duties

During the introductory period, your supervisor will explain your job responsibilities and the performance standards expected of you. Please keep in mind that your job responsibilities may change at any time during your employment. From time to time, you may be asked to work on special projects, or to assist with other work necessary or important to the operation of your department or the District. Your cooperation and assistance in performing such additional work is expected.

The District reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice, to alter or change job responsibilities, reassign or transfer job positions, or assign additional job responsibilities.

New Hires

The first 180 days of continuous employment at the District is considered an introductory period. During this time, you will learn your responsibilities, get acquainted with co-workers and determine whether or not you are happy with your job. Your supervisor will closely monitor your performance.

Completion of the introductory period does not entitle you to remain employed by the District for any definite period of time. Your status as an at-will employee does not change. The employment relationship may be terminated with or without cause and with or without advance notice, at any time by you or the District.

Time Off and Leaves of Absence

Bereavement Leave

The Desert Healthcare District grants leave of absence to employees in the event of the death of the employee's current spouse, registered domestic partner/significant other, child, parent, legal guardian, brother, sister, grandparent, or grandchild; or mother-, father-, sister-, brother-, son-, or daughter-in-law. An employee with such a death in the family may take up to three (3) consecutive scheduled workdays off with pay with the approval of the District. The employee's supervisor may approve additional unpaid time off in the event additional time off is needed; a request may be made to use any available accrued vacation time to cover the absence. Documentation may be required to support the bereavement leave benefit.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Leave and Accommodation

If you are the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, you are eligible for unpaid leave. While the leave is generally unpaid, employees can use their paid sick time under California's Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act for the purposes described below.

You may request leave if you are involved in a legal action, such as obtaining restraining orders, or appearing in court to obtain relief to ensure your or your child's health, safety, or welfare. Please provide reasonable advance notice of the need for leave, unless advance notice is not feasible. Contact the Chief Administration Officer.

If you need a reasonable accommodation for your safety at work, contact the Chief Administration Officer. If you are requesting a reasonable accommodation, you will need to submit a written statement signed by you, or by an individual acting on your behalf, certifying that the accommodation is for the purpose of your safety at work.

For reasonable accommodation requests, the District will also require certification demonstrating that you are the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. The District may request recertification every six months. Please notify the District if an approved accommodation is no longer needed.

The District will engage in an interactive process with you to identify possible accommodations, if any, that are effective and will make reasonable accommodations unless an undue hardship will result.

The District will, to the extent allowed by law, maintain the confidentiality of an employee requesting leave or accommodation under these provisions.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Leave for Treatment

Employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking are eligible for unpaid leave. Although the leave is generally unpaid, employees can use their paid sick time under California's Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act for the purposes described below.

You may request leave for any of the following purposes:

- To seek medical attention for injuries caused by domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking;
- To obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program or rape crisis center as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking;
- To obtain psychological counseling related to experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking;
- To participate in safety planning and take other actions to increase safety from future domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking including temporary or permanent relocation.

Please provide reasonable advance notice of the need for leave unless advance notice is not feasible. Contact the Chief Administration Officer.

The District will, to the extent allowed by law, maintain the confidentiality of an employee requesting leave under this provision.

The length of unpaid leave an employee may take is limited to 12 weeks provided for in the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for eligible employees.

Extended Medical Leave

On occasion, an employee may need a medical leave of absence that extends beyond limits under any state or federal mandatory leave law. In addition, there may be circumstances when an employee needs a medical leave allowed under disability laws and in accordance with this policy.

In these situations, an extended medical leave of absence may be granted for medical disabilities (other than pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions) with a doctor's written certificate of disability. Extended disability leaves will also be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the District's obligations under federal and state disability laws.

Employees should request any leave in writing and as far in advance as possible.

A medical leave begins on the first day your doctor certifies that you are unable to work and ends when your doctor certifies that you are able to return to work. The Chief Administration Officer will provide you with a form for your doctor to complete, showing the date you were disabled and the estimated date you will be able to return to work. When returning from a medical disability leave, you must present a doctor's certificate declaring fitness to return to work.

Upon return from medical leave, you will be offered the same position you held at the time your leave began, if available. If your former position is not available, a comparable position will be offered. If neither the same nor a comparable position is available, your return to work will depend on job openings existing at the time of your scheduled return. The District makes no guarantees of reinstatement, and your return will depend on your qualifications for existing openings. The District will comply with any reinstatement obligations under state or federal law.

California workers' compensation laws govern work-related injuries and illnesses. California pregnancy disability laws govern leaves taken because of pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions.

An employee that needs reasonable accommodations should contact the Chief Administration Officer and discuss the need for an accommodation.

Substitution of Paid Leave

Generally, leave is unpaid. The District may require, or you may choose, to use accrued paid leave while taking leave. In order to use paid leave, you must comply with the District's normal paid leave policies. For more information on those specific circumstances requiring or allowing the substitution of paid leave contact Chief Administration Officer.

Time Accrual

Please contact the Chief Administration Officer with any questions regarding accrual of other District provided paid leave benefits (such as vacation, or sick leave) during unpaid leave.

Jury Duty and Witness Leave

The District encourages employees to serve on jury duty when called. Non-exempt employees who have completed their introductory periods will receive full pay while serving up to ten (10) days of jury duty. Exempt employees will receive full salary unless they are absent for a full week and perform no work. You should notify your supervisor of the need for time off for jury duty as soon as a notice or summons from the court is received. You may be requested to provide written verification from the court clerk of performance of jury service. If work time remains after any day of jury selection or jury duty, you will be expected to return to work for the remainder of your work schedule.

Fees Paid by the Court

Employees may retain any mileage allowance or other fee paid by the court for jury services.

Military Leave

Employees who wish to serve in the military and take military leave should contact the Chief Administration Officer for information about their rights before and after such leave. You are entitled to reinstatement upon completion of military service, provided you return or apply for reinstatement within the time allowed by law.

Personal Leave

A personal leave of absence without pay may be granted at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. Requests for personal leave should be limited to unusual circumstances requiring an absence of longer than two (2) weeks. Approved personal absences of shorter duration are not normally treated as leaves, but rather as excused absences without pay.

Pregnancy Disability Leave

If you are pregnant, have a related medical condition, or are recovering from childbirth, please review this policy. Any employee planning to take pregnancy disability leave (PDL) should advise the Chief Administration Officer as early as possible. Please make an appointment with the Chief Administration Officer to discuss the following conditions:

- The length of pregnancy disability leave will be determined by the advice of a physician, but employees disabled by pregnancy may take up to four months of leave per pregnancy (the working days you normally would work in one-third of a year or 17 1/3 weeks). Part-time employees are entitled to leave on a pro rata basis. The four months of leave includes any period of time for actual disability caused by the pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition. This includes leave for severe morning sickness and for prenatal care, doctor-ordered bed rest, as well as other reasons. Your healthcare provider determines how much time you need for your disability;
- The District will also reasonably accommodate medical needs related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions or temporarily transfer you to a less strenuous or hazardous position (where one is available) or duties if medically needed because of your pregnancy;
- If you need to take PDL, you must inform the District when a leave is expected to begin and how long it will likely last. If the need for a leave, reasonable accommodation, or transfer is foreseeable (such as the expected birth of a child or a planned medical treatment for yourself), you must provide at least 30 days' advance notice before the PDL or transfer is to begin. Consult with the Chief Administration Officer regarding the scheduling of any planned medical treatment or supervision in order to minimize disruption to the operations of the District. Any such scheduling is subject to the approval of a health care provider;
- For emergencies or events that are unforeseeable, we need you to notify the District, at least verbally, as soon as practical after you learn of the need for the leave;
- Failure to comply with these notice requirements may result in delay of PDL, reasonable accommodation, or transfer;
- Pregnancy leave usually begins when ordered by a health care provider. You must provide the District with a written certification from a health care provider for need of PDL, reasonable accommodation or transfer. The certification must be returned no later than 15 calendar days after it is requested by the District. Failure to do so may, in some

circumstances, delay PDL, reasonable accommodation or transfer. Please see the personnel department for a medical certification form to give to your health care provider;

- Leave returns will be allowed only when a health care provider sends a release; the release to work should indicate whether the employee is released to full duty, with or without restrictions.
- You are allowed to use accrued sick time (if otherwise eligible to take the time) during PDL. You are allowed to use accrued vacation or personal time (if otherwise eligible to take the time) during PDL; and
- Leave does not need to be taken in one continuous period of time and may be taken intermittently, as needed. Leave may be taken in increments of 15 minutes.

If intermittent leave or leave on a reduced work schedule is medically advisable you may, in some instances, be required to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position that meets your needs. The alternative position does not need to have equivalent job duties but must have the equivalent rate of pay and benefits, and you must be qualified for the position. The position must better accommodate your leave requirements than your regular job. Transfer to an alternative position can include altering an existing job to better accommodate your need for intermittent leave or a reduced work schedule. This will be evaluated through the interactive process using the healthcare provider's restrictions as a basis to identify reasonable accommodations, if any.

When your health care provider releases you to return to work, from PDL, you will be reinstated to your same position held at the time the leave began or, in certain instances, to a comparable position, if available. There are limited exceptions to this policy. An employee returning from a pregnancy disability leave has no greater right to reinstatement than if the employee had been continuously employed.

If you are on PDL, you will be allowed to continue to participate in group health insurance coverage for up to a maximum of four months of disability leave (if such insurance was provided before the leave was taken) at the level and under the conditions that coverage would have been provided if you had continued in employment continuously for the duration of the leave. In some instances, the District can recover premiums paid to maintain your health coverage if you fail to return from PDL. PDL may impact other benefits or a seniority date. Please contact the Chief Administration Officer for more information.

School Appearances Involving Suspension

If you are the parent or guardian of a child facing suspension from school is summoned to the school to discuss the matter, you should alert your supervisor as soon as possible before leaving work. In agreement with California Labor Code Section 230.7, no discriminatory action will be taken against an employee who takes time off for this purpose.

Sick Leave

The District grants paid sick leave to employees to guard against loss of earnings due to illness. Supervisors have the principal responsibility for the proper and consistent application of the sick leave policy. Abuse of sick leave in any form can have serious impact on the morale and effectiveness of all members of a group or office.

California provides for mandatory paid sick leave under the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act (the "Act"). The District's paid sick leave policy complies with the requirements of the Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

You cannot be discriminated or retaliated against for requesting or using accrued paid sick time. If you have any questions about paid sick leave, please contact the Chief Administration Officer.

Eligible Employees

All eligible employees who have worked in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the start of their employment will be entitled to paid sick time. However, employees are not eligible to take paid sick time until they have worked for the District for 90-days from their date of hire.

Sick Pay Amount

Eligible employees will receive sick leave as follows:

Eligible employees earn sick leave at the rate of 3.08 hours of paid sick time per pay period. At a minimum, employees will have at least 24 hours of paid sick time by the 120th calendar day of employment, each calendar year or in each 12-month period.

You will need to meet a 90-day employment requirement before taking any accrued and available leave.

Exempt employees are presumed to work 40 hours per workweek for purposes of sick time accrual. If their normal workweek is less than 40 hours, accrual will be based on their normal workweek. The District does not pay employees for unused paid sick leave.

Employees may earn a maximum of 240 hours paid sick time. After you have reached this maximum amount, no additional paid sick time will be earned until some or all of your accrued paid sick time is used.

Qualifying Reasons for Paid Sick Leave

Paid sick time can be used for the following reasons:

- Diagnosis, care or treatment of an existing health condition for an employee or covered family member, as defined below.
- Preventive care for an employee or an employee's covered family member.
- For certain, specified purposes when the employee is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

For purposes of paid sick leave, a covered "family member" includes:

- A "child" defined as a biological, foster or adopted child; a stepchild; or a legal ward, regardless of the age or dependency status of the child. A "child" also may be someone for whom you have accepted the duties and responsibilities of raising, even if they are not your legal child.
- A "parent," defined as a biological, foster or adoptive parent; a stepparent; or a legal guardian of an employee or the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner. A parent may also be someone who accepted the duties and responsibilities of raising you when you were a minor child, even if they are not your legal parent.
- A spouse.
- A registered domestic partner.
- A grandparent.
- A grandchild.
- A sibling.

Use of Paid Sick Leave

If the need for paid sick leave is foreseeable, you must provide advance oral or written notification to the Chief Administration Officer. If the need for paid sick leave is not foreseeable, provide notice to the Chief Administration Officer as soon as practical.

Use of paid sick time may run concurrently with other leaves under local, state or federal law. Accrued and available sick leave may be used to cover waiting periods for disability insurance or paid family leave benefits with the State of California.

Paid sick leave can be used in 1 hour increments.

Use of Paid Sick Leave Before Unpaid Leave

If you are taking an unpaid leave of absence, there are circumstances where you may be required to use your accrued and unused sick leave before taking unpaid leave or having unpaid absences. In other circumstances, you can choose to use sick leave before taking unpaid leave or having unpaid absences, but it is not required. It will depend on the type of leave you are taking and/or any applicable federal and state leave requirements. Please contact the Chief Administration Officer to discuss coordination of your benefits.

Time Off for Voting

If you do not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote in an official statewide election, you may take off enough working time to vote, including up to two hours off without loss of pay. This time should be taken at the beginning or the end of the regular working shift, whichever allows for more free time for voting and the least time off work. When possible, an employee requesting time off to vote shall give their supervisor at least two working days' notice.

Vacation

The District believes that vacation is important to the health and well-being of our employees and encourages all employees to utilize their vacation benefit to balance their work and personal lives. The purpose of offering paid time off is to provide employees with flexibility from work that be used for such needs as vacation, personal or family business, appointments, volunteerism, and other activities of the employee's choice. The District's goal is to provide time for personal rejuvenation and to reduce unscheduled absences.

Vacation Accrual from First Day

Regular full-time employees are entitled to accrue:

- 1-4 years = 10 days per year
- 5-9 years = 15 days per year
- 10 years and thereafter = 20 days per year

Active service begins on your first day of work and continues thereafter unless broken by an absence without pay, a leave of absence, or termination of employment. Temporary and part-time employees do not accrue paid vacation.

Vacation can accrue up to a maximum of 1.5 times the employee's accrual schedule. No additional vacation will be earned until accrued vacation time falls below the employee's vacation accrual threshold.

You become eligible to take accrued vacation after 90 days of active service as work schedules permit.

Vacations are scheduled to provide adequate coverage of job responsibilities and staffing requirements. Every effort will be made to permit employees to take their vacations at the times they wish. However, Desert Healthcare District's operating needs will take priority. Accordingly, vacation schedules must be coordinated with and approved by supervisor in advance. Employees must submit a request in writing for vacation well in advance of the dates desired.

When your employment relationship with the District ends, you will be paid for accrued unused vacation days.

Use of Vacation Before Unpaid Leave

If you are taking an unpaid leave of absence, there are circumstances where you may be required to use your accrued and unused vacation before taking unpaid leave or having unpaid absences. In other circumstances, you can choose to use vacation before taking unpaid leave or having unpaid absences, but it is not required. It will depend on the type of leave you are taking and/or federal and state leave requirements.

Please contact the Chief Administration Officer to discuss coordination of your benefits.

Victims of Crime Leave

If you are the victim, or the family member of a victim of certain serious crimes, you may take time off from work to attend judicial proceedings related to the crime or to attend proceedings involving rights of the victim.

If you are the family member of a crime victim, you may be eligible to take this leave if you are the crime victim's spouse, parent, child or sibling. Other family members may also be covered, depending on the purpose of the leave.

The absence from work must be in order to attend judicial proceedings or proceedings involving rights of the victim. Only certain crimes are covered. You must provide reasonable advance notice of your need for leave and documentation related to the proceeding may be required. If advance notice is not possible, you must provide appropriate documentation within a reasonable time after the absence.

Any absences from work to attend judicial proceedings or proceedings involving victim rights are unpaid, unless you choose to use accrued and unused vacation leave benefits.

For more information regarding this leave (including whether you are covered, when and what type of documentation is required and which type of paid time off can be used), please contact the Chief Administration Officer.

Volunteer Civil Service Personnel

No employee shall be disciplined for taking time off to perform emergency duty as a volunteer firefighter, peace officer, or emergency rescue personnel. Employees who perform emergency duty as a volunteer firefighter, reserve peace officer, or emergency rescue personnel may also take up to a total of fourteen days' unpaid leave time per calendar year to engage in required fire, law enforcement or emergency rescue training.

Please alert your supervisor that you may have to take time off for emergency duty or emergency duty training. When taking time off for emergency duty, please alert your supervisor before doing so when possible.

Benefits

Benefits Overview

The Desert Healthcare District is committed to providing the following benefits for eligible employees. Benefit eligibility may be dependent upon your employee classification (full-time versus part-time, for example) and on length of continuous employment at the District. Benefit eligibility requirements may also be imposed by the plans themselves.

Upon becoming eligible for certain employee benefit plans, you will receive Summary Plan Descriptions which describe the benefits in greater detail. For information regarding employee benefits and to answer any questions you may have contact the Chief Administration Officer.

The District reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate benefits and to modify or amend benefit eligibility requirements at any time and for any reason, subject to any legal restrictions. The District offers the following employee benefits; with the exception of participation in the retirement plan, employees are eligible for coverage effective the 1st day of the month following the date of hire. Coverage in the plans is contingent on timely completion and submission of enrollment materials.

- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Short-term Disability Insurance
- Long-term Disability Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Out-of-Pocket Expense Reimbursement- dollar threshold determined by the District
- Retirement Plan – Eligibility Date – 1st of the month 6 months following Hire Date

Health Benefits Extension (COBRA)

Unless a health benefits extension is covered by state or federal law, benefits will terminate according to our insurance carrier's policy. Employees on inactive status may be eligible under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) or the California Continuation Benefits Replacement Act (Cal-COBRA) to elect to continue their health care coverage at the employee's expense.

Contact the Chief Administration Officer for more information.

Retirement Plan

The District offers its full-time and part-time employees the ability to participate in its 457 (b) and 401 (a) retirement programs which are regulated by Federal Law. Employees may enroll in the plan once they have completed six (6) months of service and are at least 21 years of age.

Pursuant to the plan, the District contributes a Dollar for Dollar Match for the first 4% of employee salary deferral - (Level Two) and Two Dollar for Dollar Match for the next 2% of employee salary deferral - (Level One). Specifics of the plan are available in the Summary Plan for the retirement plans.

Holidays

The Desert Healthcare District observes the following paid holidays:

- January 1 (New Year's Day)
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- July 4th (Independence Day)
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Floating Personal Day

When a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it is usually observed on the preceding Friday or the following Monday. However, the District may grant another day off in lieu of closing. Holiday observance will be announced in advance.

Non-exempt employees are eligible for paid holidays after completion of the introductory period. Holidays that are paid but not worked do not count for overtime purposes. To be eligible for a paid holiday, you must be regularly scheduled to work on the day on which the holiday is observed and must work your regularly scheduled working days immediately before and immediately after the holiday, unless an absence on either day is approved in advance by your supervisor or the absence is otherwise protected by law. If you are required to work on a paid scheduled holiday you will receive straight time.

Lactation Accommodation

The Desert Healthcare District recognizes lactating employees' rights to request lactation accommodation and accommodates lactating employees by providing a reasonable amount of break time and a suitable lactation location to any employee who desires to express breast milk for their infant child, subject to any exemption allowed under applicable law.

If possible, the break time should run concurrently with your normally scheduled break time. Any break time to express breast milk that does not run concurrently with your normally scheduled break time is unpaid.

The lactation location will be private (shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public) and located close to your work area. The location will be safe, clean and free of toxic or hazardous materials; have a surface to place a breast pump and other personal items; have a

place to sit; and have access to electricity or alternative devices (including, but not limited to extension cords or charging stations) needed to operate an electric or battery-powered breast pump. The District will also provide access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator suitable for storing milk in close proximity to your workspace. If a refrigerator cannot be provided, the District will provide another cooling device suitable for storing milk, such as an employer-provided cooler. The lactation location will not be a bathroom or restroom. The room or location may include an employee's private office if it otherwise meets the requirements of the lactation space. Multi-purpose rooms may be used as lactation space if they satisfy the requirements for space; however, use of the room for lactation takes priority over other uses for the time it is in use for lactation purposes.

Employees who desire lactation accommodations should contact the Chief Administration Officer to request accommodations. An employee's request may be provided orally, by email, or in writing, and need not be submitted on a specific form. The District will engage in an interactive process with you to determine when and where lactation breaks will occur. If the District cannot provide break time or a location that complies with this policy, a written response to your request will be provided.

The District will not tolerate discrimination or retaliation against employees who exercise their rights to lactation accommodation, including those who request time to express milk at work and/or who lodge a complaint related to the right to lactation accommodation. If you believe you have been denied reasonable break time or adequate space to express milk, or have been otherwise denied your rights related to lactation accommodation, you have the right to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner.

Paid Family Leave

Employees may be eligible for Paid Family Leave (PFL) wage replacement benefits, which are funded through payroll deductions and coordinated through the Employment Development Department (EDD). PFL provides partial pay for up to six weeks when you need to take leave from work to care for a parent, parent-in-law, child, spouse, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling who is seriously ill, or if you want time to bond with your newborn, foster child or newly adopted child. The PFL program does not provide employees with a right to a leave of absence; it is limited to a state-mandated wage replacement benefit.

Professional Development

(Previously referred to as Advancement Incentive for Employees)

Some employees may need to attend training programs, seminars, conferences, lectures, meetings, or other outside activities for the benefit of the District or the individual employees. Attendance at such activities, whether required by the District or requested by individual employees, requires the written approval of the Chief Executive Officer. To obtain approval, any employee wishing to attend an activity must submit a written request detailing all relevant information, including date, hours, location, cost, expenses, and the nature, purpose, and justification for attendance.

Attendance at any such event is subject to the following policies on reimbursement and compensation. For attendance at events required or authorized by the District, customary and reasonable expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of proper receipts. Acceptable expenses generally include registration fees, materials, meals, transportation, and parking. Reimbursement policies regarding these expenses should be discussed with the Chief Administration Officer in advance.

Employee attendance at authorized outside activities will be considered hours worked for non-exempt employees and will be compensated in accordance with normal payroll practices. This policy does not apply to an employee's voluntary attendance, outside of normal working hours, at formal or informal educational sessions, even if such sessions generally may lead to improved job performance. While the District generally encourages all employees to improve their knowledge, job skills, and promotional qualifications, such activities do not qualify for reimbursement or compensation under this policy unless prior written approval is obtained as described previously.

Tuition Reimbursement Program

(Previously referred to as the Education Incentive Program)

The District is proud to offer a Tuition Reimbursement Program to help current eligible employees further their education. The program's intent is to expand the employee's knowledge, skills and abilities, and thereby, enhance job performance, value to the organization, and access to job/career opportunities.

The Tuition Reimbursement Program is open only to fulltime regular employees in good standing who have completed one (1) year of employment. Coursework must be pre-approved and must be related to the employee's current job, or a future job in support of the District's mission and objectives. Courses must be provided by an accredited trade school or institution of higher learning (including on-line programs). Courses must be taken on the employee's time or during approved time-off.

The District Board establishes an annual allocation for this benefit; benefits limits will be adjusted for employees who receive educational benefits through a federal or state Veteran's educational benefit program, for a benefit total not to exceed the annual benefit allocation. Any amounts paid to an employee in excess of IRS limits will be reported as additional compensation.

Eligible expenses include tuition, registration fees, textbooks, and laboratory fees if any. Ineligible expenses include parking, travel, meals, and other incidentals. Graded courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or better; non-graded courses must receive a "Pass" designation. Courses that are audited or marked incomplete are not eligible for reimbursement. A copy of the final transcript must be provided for reimbursement.

Workers' Compensation

The District, in accordance with state law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of work-related injury or illness. The workers' compensation benefits provided to injured employees may include:

- Medical care;
- Cash benefits, tax free, to replace lost wages; and
- Assistance to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure that you receive any workers' compensation benefits to which you may be entitled, you need to:

- Immediately report any work-related injury to your supervisor;
- Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
- Complete a written Employee's Claim for Workers' Compensation Benefits (DWC Form 1) and return it to Chief Administration Officer; and
- Provide the District with a certification from your health care provider regarding the need for workers' compensation disability leave, as well as your eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

Upon submission of a medical certification that an employee is able to return to work after a workers' compensation leave, the employee under most circumstances will be reinstated to their same position held at the time the leave began, or to an equivalent position, if available. An employee returning from a workers' compensation leave has no greater right to reinstatement than if the employee had been continuously employed rather than on leave.

An employee's return depends on their qualifications for any existing openings. If, after returning from a workers' compensation disability leave, an employee is unable to perform the essential functions of their job because of a physical or mental disability, the District's obligations to the employee may include reasonable accommodation, as governed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

The law requires the District to notify the workers' compensation insurance District of any concerns of false or fraudulent claims.

Paid Sick Leave and Workers' Compensation Benefits

Paid sick leave is a benefit that also covers absences for work-related illness or injury. Employees who have a work-related illness or injury are covered by workers' compensation insurance. However, workers' compensation benefits usually do not cover absences for medical treatment. When you report a work-related illness or injury, you will be sent for medical treatment, if treatment is necessary. You will be paid your regular wages for the time you spend seeking initial medical treatment.

Any further medical treatment will be under the direction of the health care provider. Any absences from work for follow-up treatment, physical therapy or other prescribed appointments will not be paid as time worked. If you have accrued and unused sick leave, you may choose to substitute paid sick leave for any time that would otherwise be unpaid.

If you do not have accrued, paid sick leave, or if you have used all of your sick leave, you may choose to substitute vacation/paid time off for further absences from worked, related to your illness or injury.

Management

Employee Property

An employee's personal property, including but not limited to lockers, packages, briefcases, purses, messenger bags, and backpacks, may be inspected upon reasonable suspicion of unauthorized possession of Desert Healthcare District property, possession of dangerous weapons or firearms, or abuse of the District's drug and alcohol policy.

Employment of Relatives

Relatives of present employees or relatives of the District's current and former Board of Directors are not eligible for employment with Desert Healthcare District. The District defines "relatives" as spouses, registered domestic partners, children, siblings, parents, in-laws, and step-relatives. Present employees who marry or become registered domestic partners will be permitted to continue working in the job position held only if they do not work in a direct supervisory relationship with one another or in job positions involving conflict of interest.

In the event that two employees marry, become registered domestic partners, or become related through marriage or domestic partnership, only one of the two employees may remain as an employee of the District. The employees in question will have no more than 30 calendar days to decide which person will remain in the District's employment. If the decision is not made within the specific timeframe, the Chief Executive Officer of the District will make that decision, relying on the business needs of the organization.

Names and Addresses Policy

The District is required by law to keep current all employees' names and addresses. You are responsible for notifying the District in the event of a name or address change.

Open-Door Policy

Suggestions for improving the operations of the District are always welcome. At some time, you may have a complaint, suggestion, or question about your job, your working conditions, or the treatment you are receiving. Your complaints, questions, and suggestions are important to us.

If you have a complaint, suggestion or question, speak with your immediate supervisor as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable speaking to your immediate supervisor, please bring the issue to the Chief Administration Officer or Chief Executive Officer.

Also, if you have raised the issue and if the problem persists, you may present it to the Chief Administration Officer, who will investigate and provide a solution or explanation.

If the problem is not resolved, you may also present the problem to the Chief Executive Officer, who will attempt to reach a resolution.

In the event that the Chief Executive Officer is unable to resolve the issue, you may escalate your concerns to the District General Counsel; the General Counsel will attempt to reach a final resolution.

While a written complaint will assist us in investigating your concerns, it is not required that you put your complaint in writing. If you need assistance with your complaint, or you prefer to make a complaint in person, contact supervisor.

This procedure, which we believe is important for both you and the District, cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to your satisfaction. However, please know that the District values your observations and you should feel free to raise issues of concern without the fear of retaliation.

Performance Evaluations

Each employee will receive periodic performance reviews conducted by their supervisor. Your first performance evaluation will take place after the completion of the 180-day introductory period. Subsequent performance evaluations will be conducted per the District's Compensation policy (OP-12). The frequency of performance evaluations may vary depending upon length of service, job position, past performance, changes in job duties, or recurring performance problems.

Your performance evaluations may review factors such as the quality and quantity of the work you perform, your knowledge of the job, your initiative, your work attitude, and your attitude toward others. The performance evaluations are intended to make you aware of your progress, areas for improvement, and objectives or goals for future work performance. Favorable performance evaluations do not guarantee increases in salary or promotions. Salary increases and promotions are solely within the discretion of the District and depend upon many factors in addition to performance. After the review, you will be required to sign the evaluation report simply to acknowledge that it has been presented to you, that you have discussed it with your supervisor, and that you are aware of its contents.

Personnel Records

You have a right to inspect or receive a copy of the personnel records that the District maintains relating to your performance or to any grievance concerning you. Certain documents may be excluded or redacted from your personnel file by law, and there are legal limitations on the number of requests that can be made.

Any request to inspect or copy personnel records must be made in writing to the Chief Administration Officer. You can obtain a form for making such a written request from the Chief Administration Officer.

You may designate a representative to conduct the inspection of the records or receive a copy of the records. However, any designated representative must be authorized by you in writing to inspect or receive a copy of the records. The District may take reasonable steps to verify the identity of any representative you have designated in writing to inspect or receive a copy of your personnel records.

The personnel records may be made available to you either at the place where you work or at a mutually agreeable location (with no loss of compensation for going to that location to inspect or copy the records). The records will be made available no later than 30 calendar days from the date the District receives your written request to inspect or copy your personnel records (unless you/your representative and Desert Healthcare District mutually agree in writing to a date beyond 30 calendar days but no later than 35 calendar days from receipt of the written request).

If you request a copy of the contents of your file, you will be charged the actual cost of copying.

Disclosure of personnel information to outside sources, other than your designated representative, will be limited. However, the District will cooperate with request from authorized law enforcement or local, state, or federal agencies conducting official investigations and as otherwise legally required.

Remote Work

Working remotely, also referred to as “telecommuting,” provides employees with an opportunity to work from an alternative work environment instead of in the primary location of the District. Working remotely must be pre-approved by your supervisor and cannot be initiated without a Remote Workers Agreement, unless authorized to do so by the Chief Executive Officer.

The District retains the right in its sole discretion to designate positions that are appropriate for working remote and approve employees for working remotely. Working remotely must be approved by your supervisor. Working remotely does not change the conditions of employment or required compliance with all District policies and procedures.

The District reserves the right to change or terminate the Remote Workers Agreement at any time, without cause or advance notice. Your ability to work under a Remote Workers Agreement rests in the sole discretion of the District.

Working remotely is a privilege and may not be appropriate for all employees. If you wish to request a Remote Workers Agreement, you should contact your supervisor and ask for a Remote Work Request form.

Remote Work Safety

Remote workers are solely responsible for ensuring the safety of their alternative work environment. However, because the District is legally obligated to provide its employees with a workplace that is free from hazards that might cause serious harm or injury, the District reserves the right to periodically inspect a Remote Worker's home workspace. Any such inspection will be preceded by advance notice and an appointment will be scheduled.

Remote Workers are protected by the District's workers' compensation insurance. As such, Remote Workers are required to immediately report any injuries that occur while working. The Remote Worker is liable for any injuries that occur to third parties at or around the Remote Worker's alternative work environment.

Remote Work Plan

All Remote Workers are required to sign a Remote Workers Agreement with their supervisor that outlines the Remote Worker's the days and work hours (as applicable); equipment the Remote Worker will need; how the Remote Worker will communicate with the District; use of support or secretarial staff; and other appropriate information.

The District has authorized all employees to immediately assume remote work in the event of a natural disaster, pandemic, or other emergency recognized by the District.

Hours of Work for Remote Workers

Unless otherwise agreed in the Remote Workers Agreement, hours and days of work will not change. Employees agree to apply themselves during work hours.

Nonexempt employees agree not to work outside of scheduled hours without advance approval; this includes such activities as checking and responding to emails. Any work outside of a scheduled shift must be reported to a supervisor.

Working remotely is not intended as a substitute for child care or care for another adult. If a child or adult needs care during work time, another responsible individual is expected to be present.

Attendance at Meetings

Remote workers are expected to attend all required meetings.

Costs Associated with Remote Work

The District shall not incur additional costs due to a Remote Workers Agreement. The Remote Workers Agreement will specify any costs the District will cover.

Workplace Privacy - Audio/Video Recordings

Due to concerns regarding the potential for invasion of privacy, sexual or other harassment, and protection of proprietary or confidential information, employees may not use any audio or video recording devices while on working time. You also may not use any audio or video recordings in work areas that the District has identified as confidential, secure or private, unless you are engaged in protected activity related to improving the terms and conditions of your employment, such as documenting health and safety issues.

District Property

Employer Property

Furniture, desks, computers, cell phones, data processing equipment/software, and vehicles are District property and must be maintained according to District rules and regulations. They must be kept clean and are to be used only for work-related purposes. The District reserves the right to inspect all District property including computer or phone data or messages to ensure compliance with its rules and regulations, without notice to the employee and at any time, not necessarily in the employee's presence. Prior authorization must be obtained before any District property may be removed from the premises.

District voice mail and/or electronic mail (e-mail) including texting, pagers and mobile email are to be used for business purposes. The District reserves the right to monitor voice mail messages, and e-mail messages, and texts to ensure compliance with this rule, without notice to the employee and at any time, not necessarily in the employee's presence.

The District may periodically need to assign and/or change "passwords" and personal codes for

- email
- voice mail
- cell phones
- computers and tablets
- District's social media accounts

These communication technologies and related storage media and databases are to be used only for District business and they remain the property of the District.

The District reserves the right to keep a record of all passwords and codes used and/or may be able to override any such password system. Messages on the District voice-mail and email systems are subject to the same District policies against discrimination and harassment as are any workplace communications. Offensive, harassing or discriminatory content in such messages will not be tolerated.

For security reasons, employees should not leave personal belongings of value in the workplace. Terminated employees should remove any personal items at the time they leave Desert Healthcare District. Personal items left in the workplace are subject to disposal if not claimed at the time of an employee's termination.

Guests and Visitors

Visits from friends and family should be kept to a minimum, in order to preserve an appropriate work environment. It is extremely important that the impression left with District visitors is that of a professional organization with the highest standards of conduct.

Emergencies in which children must be in the office for an extended length of time are to be kept to an absolute minimum. The District may not be used as a substitute for regular child care of employees' children. On those occasions when children are present, they should not be allowed to disrupt others in the office.

Your child is your responsibility and must be under your direct supervision at all times. If a child is ill, you must present a doctor's note to your immediate supervisor indicating the child is not contagious. Under no circumstances may children provide work for the District, unless the child is hired as an employee pursuant to District policies.

Housekeeping

All employees are expected to keep their work areas clean and organized. People using common areas such as lunch rooms, locker rooms, and restrooms are expected to keep them sanitary. Please clean up after meals and dispose of trash properly.

Off-Duty Use of Facilities

Employees are prohibited from remaining on the District premises or making use of District facilities while not on duty. Employees are expressly prohibited from using District facilities, District property, or District equipment for personal use. This policy is not intended to limit the ability of employees to use the District's email systems to communicate with other employees regarding the terms and conditions of their employment during non-working times, including such topics as wages, job performance, workload, supervisors or staffing.

Parking

Employees may park their vehicles in designated areas, if space permits. If space is unavailable, employees must park in the parking garage. Employees will be provided with a parking sticker to be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the vehicle's windshield. Employees are encouraged to only use the north-side patient parking for short term needs. Employees may not use parking areas specifically designated for customers, vendors, District vehicles, or reserved for managers. The District is not responsible for any loss or damage to employee vehicles or contents while parked on District property.

Prohibiting Personal Use of District Cell Phone

Cell phones (including handheld devices and smart phones such as iPhones) may be provided to some employees to assist them in performing their job. Cell phones are District property. Data (including web browsing), messages (including voice mail, mobile email, and text messaging), and other stored electronic information is subject to monitoring and employees do not have an expectation of privacy in the use of this District property.

The District may ask you to assign a password to your District cell phone to prevent unauthorized access. This password does not affect the District's ownership of the cell phone or ability to monitor the information.

District cell phones must not be used in any manner that violates any other District policy, including safety policies, confidentiality policies, electronic and social media policies, and policies against discrimination and harassment.

Employees are prohibited from using District-issued cell phones and any other District property to conduct personal business. Employees who are provided a District cell phone may use the phone for personal reasons only in the case of an emergency. Other personal use is prohibited.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited at this workplace. The smoking prohibition applies to all smoking devices, including, but not limited to, the use of electronic smoking devices, such as electronic cigarettes, pipes, hookahs, and vaping devices.

Solicitation and Distribution of Literature

In order to ensure efficient operation of the District's business and to prevent disruption to employees, we have established control of solicitations and distribution of literature on District property. The District has enacted rules applicable to all employees governing solicitation, distribution of written material, and entry onto the premises and work areas. All employees are expected to comply strictly with these rules. Any employee who is in doubt concerning the application of these rules should consult with their supervisor.

No employee shall solicit or promote support for any cause or organization during their working time or during the working time of the employee or employees at whom such activity is directed. No employee shall distribute or circulate any written or printed material in work areas at any time, or during their working time or during the working time of the employee or employees at whom such activity is directed.

Under no circumstances will non-employees be permitted to solicit or to distribute written material for any purpose on District property.

Employee Conduct

Business Conduct and Ethics

No employee may accept a gift or gratuity from any customer, vendor, supplier, or other person doing business with the District because doing so may give the appearance of influencing business decisions, transactions or service. Please discuss expenses paid by such persons for business meals or trips with the District in advance.

Conducting Personal Business

Employees are to conduct only District business while at work. Employees may not conduct personal business or business for another employer during their scheduled working hours.

Confidential Information

Each employee is responsible for safeguarding the confidential information obtained during employment.

In the course of your work, you may have access to trade secrets or similarly protected proprietary or confidential information regarding the District business (such as , research and development, business plans or strategies). You have a responsibility to prevent revealing or divulging any such information unless it is necessary for you to do so in the performance of your duties or as required by law.

Access to, or disclosure of, confidential information should be on a "need-to-know" basis and must be authorized by your supervisor. Any breach of this policy will not be tolerated, and legal action may be taken by the District.

This policy does not prohibit employees from confidentially disclosing trade secret, proprietary or confidential information to federal, state and local government officials, or to an attorney, when done to report or investigate a suspected violation of the law. Employees may also disclose the information in certain court proceedings if specific procedures to protect the information are followed. Nothing in this policy is intended to conflict with 18 U.S.C. sec. 1833(b) or create liability for disclosures of trade secrets that are expressly allowed by 18 U.S.C. sec. 1833(b).

Conflicts of Interest

All employees must avoid situations involving actual conflict of interest. Personal or romantic involvement with a competitor, supplier, or subordinate employee of the District, which impairs an employee's ability to exercise good judgment on behalf of the District, can create an actual conflict of interest. Supervisor-subordinate romantic or personal relationships also can lead to supervisory problems, possible claims of sexual harassment, and morale problems.

An employee involved in any of the types of relationships or situations described in this policy should immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to their immediate supervisor, or any other appropriate supervisor, for a determination about whether an actual conflict exists. If an actual conflict is determined, the District may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances. Failure to disclose facts shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Dress Codes and Other Personal Standards

Employees are expected to wear clothing appropriate for the nature of our business and the type of work performed. Avoid clothing that can create a safety hazard.

The District observes a casual dress day on Fridays. Some employees who have customer contact may not be permitted to participate in the casual dress day.

Employees who do participate in a casual dress day still are expected to report to work properly groomed. Acceptable casual dress excludes ripped or torn clothing, T-shirts of any kind (with or without a written message), tennis shoes, tank or halter tops.

This dress code policy will not be enforced in a manner that discriminates against anyone based on a protected class, such as race, sex, gender identity or gender expression, religion, national origin or any other class protected by federal, state or local law. For more information, see the Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Prevention policy. Employees who need a reasonable accommodation because of religious beliefs, observances or practices should contact a District representative with day-to-day personnel responsibility and discuss the need for accommodation.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

The District is concerned about the use of alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs or controlled substances as it affects the workplace. Use of these substances, whether on or off the job can detract from an employee's work performance, efficiency, safety, and health, and seriously impair District operations. In addition, the use or possession of these substances on the job constitutes a potential danger to the welfare and safety of other employees and exposes the District to the risks of property loss or damage, or injury to other persons.

The following rules and standards of conduct apply to all employees while on District property, at work, or working on District business. The following are strictly prohibited by District policy:

- Being under the influence of, or impaired by, an illegal or controlled substance, alcohol or marijuana while on the job.
- Using or possessing illegal or controlled substances, alcohol or marijuana while on the job (including the illegal use of prescription drugs and possessing drug paraphernalia)
- Distributing, selling, or purchasing of an illegal or controlled substance, alcohol or marijuana while on the job.

Violation of these rules and standards of conduct will not be tolerated. The District also may bring the matter to the attention of appropriate law enforcement authorities.

In order to enforce this policy, the District reserves the right to conduct searches of District property or employees and/or their personal property, and to implement other measures necessary to deter and detect abuse of this policy.

An employee's conviction on a charge of illegal sale or possession of any controlled substance while off District property will not be tolerated because such conduct, even though off duty, reflects adversely on the District. In addition, the District must keep people who sell or possess controlled substances off District premises in order to keep the controlled substances themselves off the premises.

The District will encourage and reasonably accommodate employees with alcohol, marijuana or drug dependencies to seek treatment and/or rehabilitation. Employees desiring such assistance should request a treatment or rehabilitation leave. The District is not obligated, however, to continue to employ any person whose performance of essential job duties is impaired because of drug, alcohol or marijuana use. Additionally, employees who are given the opportunity to seek treatment and/or rehabilitation, but fail to successfully overcome their dependency or problem, will not automatically be reemployed or be given a second opportunity to seek treatment and/or rehabilitation. This policy on treatment and rehabilitation is not intended to affect the District's treatment of employees who violate the regulations described previously. Rather, rehabilitation is an option for an employee who acknowledges a chemical dependency and voluntarily seeks treatment to end that dependency.

News Media Contacts

Employees may be approached for interviews or comments by the news media. Only contact people designated by the Chief Executive Officer may comment to news reporters on District policy or events relevant to the District.

This policy does not limit your right to discuss the terms and conditions of his or her employment, or to try and improve these conditions.

Other Employment

While employed by the District, employees are expected to devote their energies to their jobs with the District.

Employment that directly conflicts with the District's essential business interests and disrupts business operations is strictly prohibited.

If you wish to engage in additional employment that may create a real conflict of interest, you must submit a written request to the District explaining the details of the additional employment. If the additional employment is authorized, the District assumes no responsibility for it. Desert Healthcare District shall not provide workers' compensation coverage or any other benefit for

injuries occurring from or arising out of additional employment. Authorization to engage in additional employment can be revoked at any time.

Prohibited Conduct

Employees are expected to conduct themselves in a manner to further the District's objectives. The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by Desert Healthcare District. This list of prohibited conducts is illustrative only; other types of conduct that threaten security, personal safety, employee welfare and District operations also may be prohibited and will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

- Falsifying employment records, employment information, or other District records;
- Inefficient or careless performance of job responsibilities or inability to perform job duties satisfactorily;
- Recording the work time of another employee or allowing any other employee to record your work time, or falsifying any time card, either your own or another employee's;
- Theft and deliberate or careless damage or destruction of any District property, or the property of any employee or customer;
- Removing or borrowing District property without prior authorization;
- Unauthorized use or misuse of District equipment, time, materials, or facilities;
- Provoking a fight or fighting during working hours or on District property;
- Participating in horseplay or practical jokes on District time or on District premises;
- Carrying firearms or any other dangerous weapons on District premises at any time;
- Causing, creating or participating in a disruption of any kind during working hours on District property;
- Insubordination, including but not limited to failure or refusal to obey the orders or instructions of a supervisor or member of management, or the use of abusive or threatening language toward a supervisor or member of management;
- Using abusive, threatening or intimidating language at any time on District premises;
- Violation of District punctuality and attendance policies. Absences protected by state or federal law do not count as violations of this policy. Protected paid sick time under California law does not count as a violation of this policy;
- Failing to obtain permission to leave work for any reason during normal working hours, not including meal periods;
- Failing to observe working schedules, including rest and meal periods;
- Sleeping or malingering on the job;
- Making or accepting personal telephone calls, including cell phone calls, of more than three minutes in duration during working hours, except in cases of emergency or extreme circumstances;
- Working overtime without authorization or refusing to work assigned overtime;
- Violation of dress standards;
- Violation of any safety, health, security or District policy, rule or procedure;
- Violation of the District's drug and alcohol policy;
- Committing a fraudulent act or a breach of trust under any circumstances;

- Violating the District's anti-harassment or equal employment opportunity policies; and
- Failing to promptly report work-related injury or illness.

This statement of prohibited conduct does not alter the District's policy of at-will employment. Either you or the District remain free to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without reason or advance notice.

Prohibited Use of District Cell Phone While Driving

In the interest of the safety of our employees and other drivers and pedestrians on the road, the District employees are prohibited from using cell phones (including all smart phones) or other wireless communication devices (including laptops and tablets) while driving on District business and/or District time. This prohibition includes any use of the cell phone or other wireless communications device, such as answering or placing calls, engaging in conversations, texting, Web browsing or using any smart phone application while driving.

If your job requires that you keep your cell phone or other wireless communication device turned on while you are driving, you must use a hands-free, voice-operated device at all times. Under no circumstances should employees place phone calls while operating a motor vehicle while driving on District business and/or District time. Violating this policy is a violation of law and a violation of District rules.

Punctuality and Attendance

As an employee of the District, you are expected to be punctual and regular in attendance. Tardiness or absences can cause problems for your co-workers and your supervisor. When you are absent, your assigned work must be performed by others.

You are expected to report to work as scheduled, on time, and prepared to start work. Employees also are expected to remain at work for their entire work schedule, except for meal periods or when required to leave on authorized District business. Late arrivals, early departures or other unanticipated and unapproved absences from scheduled hours are disruptive and must be avoided.

If you are unable to report for work on any particular day, you must provide reasonable advance notice to your supervisor before the time you are scheduled to begin working for that day. You must inform your supervisor of the expected duration of any absence. If you fail to provide reasonable advance notice before your scheduled time to begin work and do not arrive in time for your assigned shift, you will be considered tardy for that day. If the circumstances for your tardiness or absence were unforeseen, inform your supervisor as soon as practical of the reason for the tardiness or absence.

Excessive absenteeism or tardiness, providing false information or abuse of leave laws will not be tolerated. Generally, if you fail to report for work without any notification to your supervisor and your absence continues for a period of three (3) calendar days, the District will consider that you have voluntarily abandoned or quit your employment.

Absences protected by local, state and federal law do not count as a violation of the punctuality and attendance policy. Paid sick time protected under California law does not count as a violation of this policy.

Wages

Advances

Desert Healthcare District does not permit advances against paychecks or against unaccrued vacation.

Deductions for Exempt Employees

Employees paid on a "salary basis" regularly receive a predetermined amount of compensation each pay period. Subject to the exceptions listed below, exempt employees will receive full salary for any workweek in which they perform any work, regardless of the number of days or hours worked.

No deductions from salary may be made for time when work is not available, provided the exempt employee is ready, willing, and able to work. Deductions from pay are permissible when an exempt employee:

- Is absent from work for one or more full days for personal reasons other than sickness or disability;
- Is absent for one or more full days due to sickness or disability if the deduction is made in accordance with a bona fide plan, policy, or practice of providing full compensation for salary lost due to illness and the employee has exhausted their leave under this policy;
- Is absent for jury duty or military duty for a full week and performs no work during the week; or
- Works less than a full week during the initial or final week of employment;

Partial day deductions from available accrued vacation or sick leave balances will also be made by the District when applicable.

It is District policy to comply with these salary basis requirements. Therefore, the District prohibits management from making any improper deductions from the salaries of exempt employees. The District wants employees to be aware of this policy and know that the District does not allow deductions that violate federal or state law.

If you believe that an improper deduction from your salary has been made, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, or to the Chief Administration Officer. Reports of improper deductions will be investigated promptly. If it is determined that an improper deduction has occurred, you will be promptly reimbursed for any improper deduction made.

Expense Accounts

The District reimburses employees for business expenses on the 30th of each month. Employees who have expense accounts or who have incurred business expenses must submit required receipts and the 15th of each month to the Chief Administration Officer no later than the 15th of each month.

If you have any questions about the District's expense reimbursement policy, contact the Chief Administration Officer.

Personal and/or vacation travel may be combined with business travel provided there is no additional cost to the District, and it meets with the approval of the Chief Administration Officer. Desert Healthcare District credit cards are not to be used for personal expenses.

Makeup Time

The District allows the use of makeup time when non-exempt employees need time off to tend to personal obligations. Makeup time worked will not be paid at an overtime rate. Employees may take time off and then make up the time later in the same workweek, or may work extra hours earlier in the workweek to make up for time that will be taken off later in the workweek.

Makeup time requests must be submitted in writing to your supervisor, with your signature, on the District-provided form. Requests will be considered for approval based on the legitimate business needs of the District at the time the request is submitted. A separate written request is required for each occasion the employee requests makeup time.

If you request time off that you will make up later in the week, you must submit your request at least 12 hours before the desired time off in advance of the desired time off. If you request to work makeup time first in order to take time off later in the week, you must submit your request at least 6 hours before working the make-up time. Your makeup time request must be approved in writing before you take the requested time off or work makeup time, whichever is first.

All makeup time must be worked in the same workweek as the time taken off. The District's seven-day workweek is from 11:30 am Friday to Friday. Nonexempt employees may not work more than 11 hours in a day or 40 hours in a workweek as a result of making up time that was or would be lost due to a personal obligation.

If you take time off and are unable to work the scheduled makeup time for any reason, the hours missed will normally be unpaid. However, your supervisor may arrange with you another day to make up the time if possible, based on scheduling needs. If you work makeup time in advance of time you plan to take off, you must take that time off, even if you no longer need the time off for any reason.

An employee's use of makeup time is completely voluntary. The District does not encourage, discourage, or solicit the use of makeup time.

Meal and Rest Periods

Rest Breaks

All nonexempt employees are entitled to uninterrupted rest break periods during their workday. If you are a nonexempt employee, you will be paid for all such break periods, and you will not clock out.

Number of Rest Breaks

You will be authorized and permitted one (1) 10-minute net rest break for every four (4) hours you work (or major fraction thereof, which is defined as any amount of time over two [2] hours). A rest break need not be authorized for employees whose total daily work time is less than three and one half (3.5) hours.

You will be relieved of all duty during your rest break periods. You are free to come and go as you please and are free to leave the premises. You are expected to return to work promptly at the end of any rest break.

If you work a shift from three and one-half (3.5) to six (6) hours in length you will be entitled to one (1) ten-minute rest break. If you work more than six (6) hours and up to 10 hours, you will be entitled to two (2) ten-minute rest breaks. If you work more than 10 hours and up to 14 hours, you will be entitled to three (3) ten-minute rest breaks.

Timing of Rest Breaks

You are authorized and permitted to take a rest break in the middle of each four-hour work period. Your rest break will be scheduled by supervisors.

Meal Periods

All nonexempt employees will be provided an uninterrupted unpaid meal period of at least 30 minutes if you work more than five (5) hours in a workday. You must clock out for your meal period. You will be permitted a reasonable opportunity to take this meal period, and you will be relieved of all duty. During your meal period, you are free to come and go as you please and are free to leave the premises. You are expected to return to work promptly at the end of any meal period.

If your total work period for the day is more than five hours per day but no more than six hours, you may waive the meal period. This cannot be done without the mutual consent of you and your supervisor. You must discuss any such waiver with your supervisor in advance. The waiver must be in writing.

Timing of Meal Period

Your meal period will be provided no later than the end of your fifth hour of work. For example, if you begin work at 8:00 a.m., you must start your meal period by 12:59 p.m. (which is before the end of your fifth hour of work). Your meal period will be scheduled by supervisors

Second Meal Period

If you work more than 10 hours in a day, you will be provided a second, unpaid meal period of at least 30 minutes. Again, you must clock out for your meal period. You will be permitted

a reasonable opportunity to take this meal period, and you will be relieved of all duty. There will be no control over your activities during your meal period. During your meal period, you are free to leave the premises and are free to come and go as you please. You are expected to return to work promptly at the end of any meal period.

Depending on the circumstances, you may be able to waive your second meal period if you took the first meal period and if your total hours worked for the day is no more than twelve hours. This cannot be done without the mutual consent of you and your supervisor and must be in writing. You must discuss any such waiver with your supervisor in advance.

Timing of Second Meal Period

This second meal period will be provided no later than the end of your 10th hour of work. Your second meal period will be scheduled by supervisors.

Recording Meal Periods

You must clock out for any meal period and record the start and end of the meal period. Employees are not allowed to work "off the clock." All work time must be accurately reported on your time record.

If, for any reason you are not provided a meal period in accordance with our policy, or if you are in any way discouraged or impeded from taking your meal period or from taking the full amount of time allotted to you, please immediately notify the Chief Administration Officer.

Anytime you miss a meal period that was provided to you (or you work any portion of a provided meal period), you will be required to report to supervisor and document the reason for the missed meal period, or time worked.

Please also refer to the District's Timekeeping Policy.

Overtime for Nonexempt Employees

Employees may be required to work overtime as necessary. Only actual hours worked in a given workday or workweek can apply in calculating overtime. The District will attempt to distribute overtime evenly and accommodate individual schedules. All overtime work must be previously authorized by a supervisor.

The District provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by non-exempt employees in accordance with state and federal law as follows:

- All hours worked in excess of 40 hours in one workweek will be treated as overtime. A workday begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends at midnight 24 hours later. Workweeks begin each Friday at 11:30 a.m.;
- Compensation for hours in excess of 40 for the workweek, and for the first eight hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay;
- Exempt employees may have to work hours beyond their normal schedules as work demands require. No overtime compensation will be paid to exempt employees.

Pay for Mandatory Meetings/Training

The District will pay non-exempt employees for their attendance at meetings, lectures, and training programs under the following conditions:

- Attendance is mandatory;
- The meeting, course, or lecture is directly related to the employee's job;
- The employee who is required to attend such meetings, lectures, or training programs will be notified of the necessity for such attendance by their supervisor;
- The employee will be paid at the then applicable minimum wage for time spent at meetings, lectures, and training programs if the employee does not perform any productive work during such attendance;
- Employees who do perform productive work during attendance at meetings, lectures or training programs will be compensated at their regular rate of pay; and
- Any hours in excess of 40 in a week will be paid at the appropriate overtime rate, at the hourly rate in effect at the time the overtime work is being performed.

Payment of Wages

Paychecks are normally paid through direct deposit. If you observe an error on your check, please report it immediately to your supervisor.

All employees of the District are paid every other Friday for work performed during the previous two-week pay period. If a regular payday falls on a holiday, you will be paid on the workday before the holiday.

The District offers automatic payroll deposit. You may begin and stop automatic payroll deposit at any time. To begin automatic payroll deposit, you must complete a form (available from the payroll department) and return it to payroll at least 10 days before the pay period for which you would like the service to begin. You should carefully monitor your payroll deposit statements for the first two pay periods after the service begins.

To stop automatic payroll deposit, complete the form available from the payroll department and return it to payroll at least 10 days before the pay period for which you would like the service to end. You will receive a regular payroll check on the first pay period after the receipt of the form, provided it is received no later than 10 days before the end of the pay period.

Timekeeping Requirements

All nonexempt employees are required to use a timesheet to record time worked for payroll purposes. All time worked must be accurately reported on your time record. You must record your own time at the start and at the end of each work period. You must record the start and end of the meal period.

You are not allowed to work "off the clock." Working off the clock violates District policy. Any work performed before or after a regularly scheduled shift must be approved in advance by your supervisor. If you perform any off-the-clock work, please report the work to your supervisor.

You also must record your time whenever you leave the building for any reason other than District business.

You will be required to certify that your time record is accurate.

Any handwritten marks or changes on the timesheet must be initialed by a supervisor. Filling in another employee's timesheet, allowing another employee to fill out your timesheet, or altering a timesheet is not permissible and is subject to disciplinary action.

Any errors on your timecard should be reported immediately to your supervisor. Please also refer to the District's Meal and Rest Break Policy.

Reporting-Time Pay

The District will comply with all applicable regulations regarding reporting-time pay for nonexempt employees.

The District will pay a minimum of two hours of pay to employees who are required to report to work on a day other than their normally scheduled workday.

Desert Healthcare District will not pay employees who report to work but are unable to work under the following circumstances:

- Interruption of work because of the failure of any or all public utilities; or
- Interruption of work because of natural causes or other circumstances beyond the District's power to control.

Work Schedule

Desert Healthcare District is normally open for business between the hours of 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. All employees are expected to be at their desks or workstations at the start of their scheduled shifts, ready to work.

The workweek begins every Friday at 11:30 am.

The work schedule consists of two-week period with eight non-consecutive 9-hour days and one 8-hour day.

- The 9-hour workday will begin at 7:30 am and end at 5:00 pm; the 8-hour workday will begin at 7:30 am and end at 4:00 pm.
- The 10th day in the work week is the regular day off, or flex day.

Holiday Time

For non-exempt employees, when a District-paid holiday falls on a Monday, the day will be paid at a 9-hour rate; when a District-paid holiday falls on an employee's flex Friday, the holiday will be paid at an 8-hour rate.

Overtime

For non-exempt employees on alternative workweek schedules, overtime worked on any regularly scheduled workday will be paid at the rate of:

- Time-and-one-half for all work performed beyond 40 hours per week.
- Overtime will be paid for hours worked on a day that is not a regularly scheduled workday in any workweek, including any seventh consecutive workday, at the rate of time-and-one-half.

Sick and Vacation Time

For employees working a 9-hour day, when absent for a full day, accrued sick or vacation time will be deducted in 9-hour increments. Otherwise, sick and vacation time may be taken in 1 hour increments.

Safety and Health

Employees Who Are Required to Drive

Employees whose job duties require them to drive a District vehicle or their own vehicles for District business will be required to show proof of current valid driving licenses and proof of insurability under the District's policy or current effective insurance coverage before the first day of employment.

The District participates in a system that regularly checks state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) records of all employees who are required to drive as part of their job.

If an employee is required to drive as part of their job, the District retains the right to transfer to an alternative position, suspend, or terminate an employee whose license is suspended or revoked, or who fails to maintain personal automobile insurance coverage or who is uninsurable under the District's policy.

Employees who drive their own vehicles on District business will be reimbursed at the rate of the IRS standard mileage rate per mile.

Ergonomics

The District is subject to Cal/OSHA ergonomics standards for minimizing workplace repetitive motion injuries. The District will make necessary adjustments to reduce exposure to ergonomic hazards through modifications to equipment and processes and employee training. The District encourages safe and proper work procedures and requires all employees to follow safety instructions and guidelines.

The District believes that reduction of ergonomic risk is instrumental in maintaining an environment of personal safety and well-being, and is essential to our business. We intend to provide appropriate resources to create a risk-free environment. If you have any questions about ergonomics, please contact the Chief Administration Officer.

Health and Safety

All employees are responsible for their own safety, as well as that of others in the workplace. To help us maintain a safe workplace, everyone must be safety-conscious at all times. Report all work-related injuries or illnesses immediately to your supervisor or to the human resources department. In compliance with California law, and to promote the concept of a safe workplace, Desert Healthcare District maintains an Injury and Illness Prevention Program. The Injury and Illness Prevention Program is available for review by employees and/or employee representatives in the general manager's office.

In compliance with Proposition 65, Desert Healthcare District will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

Medical Testing

The District is committed to providing a safe work environment for all employees. There may be circumstances during a declared health emergency when business necessity requires that the District conduct medical testing or temperature checks of employees. Any such tests will be conducted in conformance with all Federal and State laws and local health department regulations.

Recreational Activities and Programs

The District or its insurer will not be liable for payment of workers' compensation benefits for any injury that arises out of an employee's voluntary participation in any off-duty recreational, social, or athletic activity that is not part of the employee's work-related duties.

Security

The District has developed guidelines to help maintain a secure workplace.

- Be aware of persons loitering for no apparent reason in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits, and service areas.
- Report any suspicious persons or activities to security personnel. Secure your desk or office at the end of the day.
- When called away from your work area for an extended length of time, do not leave valuable and/or personal articles in or around your workstation that may be accessible.

The security of facilities as well as the welfare of our employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. You should immediately notify your supervisor when unknown persons are acting in a suspicious manner in or around the facilities, or when keys, security passes, or identification badges are missing.

Workplace Violence

The District has adopted the following workplace violence policy to ensure a safe working environment for all employees.

The District has zero tolerance for acts of violence and threats of violence. Without exception, acts and threats of violence are not permitted. All such acts and threats, even those made in apparent jest, will be taken seriously, and will lead to discipline up to and including termination.

Possession of non-work related weapons on District premises and at District-sponsored events shall constitute a threat of violence.

It is every employee's responsibility to assist in establishing and maintaining a violence-free work environment. Therefore, you are expected and encouraged to report any incident which may be threatening to you or your co-workers or any event which you reasonably believe is threatening or violent.

You may report an incident to any supervisor or the Chief Administration Officer.

A threat includes, but is not limited to, any indication of intent to harm a person or damage to District property. Threats may be direct or indirect, and they may be communicated verbally or nonverbally. The following are examples of threats and acts that shall be considered violent - this list is in no way all-inclusive:

Example	Type of Threat
Saying, "Do you want to see your next birthday?"	Indirect
Writing, "Employees who kill their supervisors have the right idea."	Indirect
Saying, "I'm going to punch your lights out."	Direct
Making a hitting motion or obscene gesture	Nonverbal
Displaying weapons	Extreme
Stalking or otherwise forcing undue attention on someone, whether romantic or hostile	Extreme
Taking actions likely to cause bodily harm or property damage	Acts of violence

Termination

Employee References

All requests for references must be directed to the Chief Administration Officer. No other manager, supervisor, or employee is authorized to release references for current or former employees.

By policy, the District discloses only the dates of employment and the title of the last position held of former employees.

Progressive Discipline and Involuntary Termination

Violation of District policies and rules may warrant disciplinary action. The District has a system of progressive discipline that may include verbal warnings, written warnings, and suspension. The system is not formal, and the District may, in its sole discretion, utilize whatever form of discipline is deemed appropriate under the circumstances, up to, and including, immediate termination of employment. The District's policy of progressive discipline in no way limits or alters the at-will employment relationship.

Reductions in Force

Under some circumstances, the District may need to restructure or reduce its workforce. If restructuring our operations or reducing the number of employees becomes necessary, the District will attempt to provide advance notice, if possible, to help prepare affected individuals. If possible, employees subject to layoff will be informed of the nature of the layoff and the foreseeable duration of the layoff, whether short-term or indefinite.

In determining which employees will be subject to layoff, Desert Healthcare District will take into account, among other things, operation and requirements, the skill, productivity, ability, and past performance of those involved, and also, when feasible, the employee's length of service.

Voluntary Resignation

Voluntary resignation results when an employee voluntarily quits their employment at Desert Healthcare District or fails to report to work for three consecutively scheduled workdays without notice to, or approval by, their supervisor (unless the absence is protected by law). All District-owned property, including vehicles, keys, uniforms, identification badges, and credit cards, must be returned immediately upon termination of employment.



Receipt 2020 Employee Handbook

Employee Name	
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My signature indicates that I have received a copy of the Desert Healthcare District Handbook.

I understand that I am to review this handbook that outlines my privileges and benefits, as well as my responsibilities and obligations as an employee of the Desert Healthcare District (the District).

I understand that the information contained in this handbook, dated June 2020, is subject to change, and that the District may modify or supersede the policies and benefits as stated in this handbook, and that any such changes will be reflected in memorandum or notices circulated to District employees.

I understand that nothing in this handbook, or any other policy of the Desert Healthcare District, creates a term and/or contract of employment. I further understand and agree that no contract of employment other than “at will” has been expressed or implied, and that no circumstance arising out of my employment will alter the “at will nature” of the employment relationship.

Employee Signature	Date

Desert Healthcare District Representative Signature	Date