Good evening,

By now you would have received an email from President Johnson announcing that Juneteenth will be recognized as a university holiday (see below). This year, Ohio State is observing the holiday on Friday, June 18th (tomorrow).

We realize that this is an exciting, yet sudden announcement. For clarity, all employees will be paid for this holiday and all other university holiday procedures will be followed, including the cancelation of all planned classes.

The Juneteenth holiday is to be staffed like other holidays with the staffing necessary for critical operations such as those that provide and support law enforcement and public safety; meal preparation and service; animal care, utilities including, but not limited to, light, heat, and water to university buildings and properties; and others determined as essential. If you are not sure of your critical status during holidays, please reach out to your supervisor.

Employees who are required to work will receive pay consistent with the university’s [Holidays](https://www.osu.edu/hr/policies/hr-6-20) Policy, 6.20 or the applicable collective bargaining agreement. Therefore, if a nonexempt employee is not deemed critical, they should not report for work. If employees report tomorrow, they are to be immediately relieved of work for the day in observance of the new university holiday. If you’re just now seeing this message and you have already reported to work, you should go home.

For guidance related to classes, advising or other academic issues, information will be posted to the [Office of Academic Affairs website](https://www.osu.edu/academicaffairs).

Additional guidance for OSU Extension will be provided directly via the Extension email listserv.

For more information related to employees and administrative issues, please visit the Ohio State Human Resources [website](https://www.osu.edu/hr).  

Sincerely,

Dean Cathann Kress

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**We Sustain Life**  

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Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

I am pleased to share that Ohio State will commemorate Juneteenth as an official university holiday beginning tomorrow. The university will be observing Juneteenth on Friday, June 18, and the university will be closed.

As you know, Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when enslaved Black people in Texas finally learned of their freedom as granted by the Emancipation Proclamation. This day and all days, we commit ourselves to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in our communities and across the world.

This afternoon, President Joe Biden signed a bill establishing Juneteenth National Independence Day as a federal holiday. In accordance with university policy and in keeping with our focus on advancing diversity and inclusion across our campuses, all employees will be paid for this holiday and all other university holiday procedures will be followed, including the cancelation of all
planned classes. For guidance related to classes, advising or other academic issues, information will be posted to the Office of Academic Affairs website. For more information related to employees and administrative issues, please visit the Ohio State Human Resources website.

You can explore Juneteenth events in our community by visiting the Office of Diversity and Inclusion website.

Thank you, Buckeyes, for your continuing commitment to inclusive excellence. Let’s take this opportunity to join together, learn from one another and honor this historic day.

Sincerely yours,

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD
President