



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President

Michael J. Hora
National Secretary-Treasurer

June Harris
Vice President
Central Region

John A. Gibson
Vice President
Eastern Region

David E. Wilkin
Vice President
Northeastern Region

Lawrence B. Sapp
Vice President
Southern Region

Don J. Sneesby
Vice President
Western Region

March 18, 2020

To: Local Presidents
Regional Directors
National Executive Board

Fr: Charles Manago *CM*
National Contract Administration Representative

Re: **USPS Issues Guidance on Social Gatherings**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Please find enclosed a copy of the above-referenced document from the Postal Service regarding the most recent Mandatory Stand-Up Talk concerning Social Gatherings.

According to the Postal Service, information on guidance recently issued by the White House and Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC), regarding social gatherings. Avoiding social gatherings is a way to help reduce introduction of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) into new communities. It is also believed to help slow the spread of infection in communities already infected by the virus.

Specifically, the White House and CDC now recommend avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people for a 15-day period in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, stand-up talks will be staggered with smaller groups indoors and/or be held outside for larger spacing if possible. The White House and CDC guidance states, "if you work in a critical infrastructure industry, which includes the Postal Service, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule." Our core mission is to bind the nation together, and we continue to be a vital connection for millions of people throughout the nation. Be assured, the Postal Service is following operable CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

Several agencies, including the CDC, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the Director of the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases, have all indicated that there is currently no evidence that the coronavirus is being spread through the mail. The risk to employees continues to be low according to the health experts.

As always, the following should be reminders to help ensure the safety and well-being of employees.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when sick.



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- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue, then throw tissue in trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Follow CDC recommendation that face mask should be only worn by people who show symptoms of the virus to prevent spreading the disease to others.

As always, EAP continues to be available 24 hours a day at 1-800-EAP-4-YOU or online at www.EAP4YOU.com. Services from EAP include counseling, crisis response, a health resource library, and in-the-moment support available to you and your family as needed. You can also find resources on the Postal Service's response to COVID-19 on Liteblue sites. Information will continue to be provided as it becomes available.

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

March 18, 2020

Guidance on Social Gatherings

Today, we want to provide information on guidance recently issued by the White House and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), regarding social gatherings. Avoiding social gatherings is a way to help reduce introduction of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) into new communities. It is believed to also help slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus.

Specifically, the [White House and CDC](#) now recommend avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people for a 15-day period in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. The safety and well-being of our employees is our highest priority. Therefore, in our stand up talks, we will stagger times with smaller groups indoors and/or hold them outside for larger spacing if possible.

It's important to note that the White House and CDC guidance states, "If you work in a critical infrastructure industry [which includes the Postal Service], you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule." Our core mission is to bind the nation together, and we continue to be a vital connection for millions of people throughout the nation. Be assured, the Postal Service is following operable CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

Several agencies, including the CDC, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the Director of the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases, have all indicated that there is currently no evidence that the coronavirus is being spread through the mail. The risk to employees continues to be low, according to health experts.

As always, we provide these reminders to help ensure the safety and well-being of employees.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue, then throw tissue in trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use a 60-percent alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Follow CDC's recommendation that face masks should be only worn by people who show symptoms of the virus to prevent spreading the disease to others.

Our mission is clear and it is important – to serve the public and keep families, friends, and businesses connected. Thank you for your commitment to service and for your dedication to our mission.

As always, EAP continues to be available 24 hours a day at 1 800 EAP-4-YOU or online at www.EAP4YOU.com. Services from EAP include counseling, crisis response, a health resource library, and in-the-moment support available to you and your family as needed. The EAP is a benefit of your postal employment.

You also can find resources on the Postal Service's response to COVID-19 on our Blue and LiteBlue sites. We will continue to provide information to you as it becomes available. Thank you for your attention.