March 20, 2020

To: Local Presidents

Regional Directors/Representatives

National Executive Board

From: Charles R. Manago

Contract Administration Representative

Re: USPS Briefs the NPMHU on Coronavirus COVID-19.

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Please find attached the latest update from the NPMHU concerning Coronavirus COVID-19. Today the NPMHU was briefed by Patrick Devine, USPS Manager Contract Administration (NPMHU).

During this pandemic the Postal Service has committed to provide the National Postal Mail Handlers Union with briefings and up to date status reports. The National Office will continue to provide that information to the field.

Please disseminate this information as you deem appropriate and should you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions regarding this information, please contact the Contract Administration Department.
March 20, 2020

Coronavirus COVID-19 Briefing

Today National CAD Representative met with Patrick Devine, USPS Manager Contract Administration (NPMHU) to discuss the impact and status of the Postal Service’s response to the Coronavirus COVID-19. We discussed a wide range of topics and discussed expectation for the meetings going forward. The most pressing issue for this meeting was the recent level 3 travel advisory issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the cruise ship industry.

The CDC in a recent turn of events recommended that travelers defer all cruise travel worldwide. The Department of State had also recommended that cruise ship travel be deferred. Patrick informed the NPMHU that the Postal Service is indeed reevaluating and will more than likely follow the guidelines of the CDC when it come to the latest level 3 travel advisory issued by the CDC.

According to the information posted by the CDC, cruise passengers are at increased risk of person-to-person spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, and outbreaks of COVID-19 have been reported on several cruise ships.

Cruise travelers should stay home for 14 days after returning from travel, monitor their health, and practice social distancing.

What is the current situation?

CDC recommends that travelers defer cruise travel worldwide. For most travelers, cruise ship travel is voluntary and should be rescheduled for a future date. If you do go on a cruise during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Do not board a cruise if you are sick.

Avoid contact with sick people.

Discuss cruise ship travel with your healthcare provider. Older adults and people of any age with serious chronic medical conditions are at increased risk for severe disease if infected with the novel coronavirus.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
If you get sick with fever or new or worsening cough or trouble breathing during your cruise, stay in your cabin and notify the onboard medical center immediately.

If you were on a cruise in the past 14 days:

Stay home for 14 days from the time you disembark, practice social distancing, and monitor your health. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.

Charles R. Manago

Contract Administration Representative