



# National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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## Local 303 COVID-19 Virus Update #10

As the economy opens up it seems we think that the COVID-19 pandemic is over. I can assure you it is not. As I listen to the news and get daily alerts of positive tests for employees that work at mail processing plants in Southern California, things are not good. With the data that I have compiled from the contact tracing of positive test within the facilities one thing is clear, you are safer at work or sheltered in place at home. The employees testing positive can overwhelmingly be traced back to a social gathering.

We are celebrating July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day a holiday that is traditionally celebrated with group gatherings to watch fireworks, parades, and concerts. These events for the most part have been canceled. My concern is the casual family gatherings and barbecues taking place. We must practice social distancing and not gather with people who are not part of our immediate household. The best choice would be not to participate at all.

As essential employees we are continuing our normal work schedule as things at work evolve. Weeks ago, I got calls for and against face coverings. The Postal Service and the Union have agreed that face coverings will help stop the spread of the Coronavirus, and therefore they are now required. I support the decision and hope that you all use some type of face covering. Better late than never, so let's all get on board.

When it comes to face coverings and being our brother's keeper, masks protect others so please wear your mask correctly. Face coverings should cover your nose and mouth. We know some of our co-workers are not covering their nose and I ask you to talk to them even though they might fight an order to the deadly end. The requirement also applies to SDOs, MDOs and Plant Managers, and we should have no hesitation in reminding them if they think otherwise.

The numbers have gotten extremely high, and if we don't change our habits we will all be touched by this virus. Currently only Anaheim P&DC and Moreno Valley DDC have not reported a positive COVID-19 test result. In the past, I would get a positive test alert about twice a week. The last two weeks the alerts have been every day and some days, I get 2 or 3 alerts. The larger buildings are getting multiple positives a day. The Pacific Area including the Letter carriers are getting over 10 confirmed positive Coronavirus cases per day.

The last update the Pacific Area had 129 confirmed cases, now that number has more than doubled. The current positive tests is over 300. This is mostly Southern California and not Northern California. At one-point San Francisco District had 15 confirmed positive cases, and Santa Ana District had 52 confirmed positive cases. The San Francisco District is close to twice the size of Santa Ana District and if you compare the numbers of confirmed positive cases you don't see that. If we are going to believe that SOCAL is the best half of California, we need to act that way. Please follow all safety protocols so things can get back to normal.

Eddie Cowan  
Local President