



# National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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## Local 303 COVID-19 Virus Update # 6

The number of positive tests and quarantines are steadily increasing as we all are aware. I want to point out an overlooked statistic that we all can be thankful for, and that is the number of our co-workers in the Pacific Area that were quarantined and are now back at work. We have 358 postal employees that are back at work performing their essential duties for the American public.

As of April 24, 2020, 9,570 postal employees are under quarantine and 1,142 have tested positive. The Pacific Area numbers for quarantined postal workers stands at 895 and 58 with positive test results. There is no increase in the facilities that have confirmed positive tests.

The latest Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between management and the Unions is with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). Their MOU provides the Postal Service temporary authority to contract out cleaning services. We are all in this together and this gives management more flexibility in providing a safe work environment.

The Unions also agreed that it is now mandatory to follow all Local, City and State ordinances, and executive orders regarding face covering. Whenever you can't maintain a distance of 6 feet apart from others a mask must be worn at work. (Ex. Inside a trailer, In a bull pen, etc.)

At a time when the Unions and Management are agreeing to multiple MOUs to keep us safe, we should not have to deal with the situation or possibility of the United States Postal Service going broke or closing. I continually answer questions regarding Postal Services closing. A lot of this has to do with National politics and our President, but I am confident that at the end of the day the constitutional requirement of universal service that we currently provide will still be around long after us.

There's been a lot of confusion about the Family First Coronavirus Response Act, and I don't want to add to the confusion by trying to interpret a federal law. It's posted on the website ([npmhulocal303.org](http://npmhulocal303.org)) and I provided the supervisor checklist to the Branch Presidents regarding what SDO's should do and the documentation needed if required. Each individual is different so check the website to see what benefits you may qualify for.

One clear problem is that many new MOUs have come out and no one can keep up with all of them. There is a MOU for MHAs to get 80 hours of paid sick leave for COVID-19 absences (including providing childcare). This MOU will expire on May 17<sup>th</sup> and if not used can't be carried over, use it or lose it. It's not the 80 hours for the Family First Coronavirus Response Act.

If any MHA needs to use the 80 hours under the MOU it should be cited as code 19 to get the correct leave.

Eddie Cowan  
Local President