



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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Local 303 COVID-19 Virus Update #2 (3/29/2020)

Things have only gotten worse since my last update, I wish that was not the case but it is. I will continue to try and keep you informed on the facts as they may be when writing the Coronavirus pandemic update. As stated before I am on conference calls each day. I mail and email informational updates to all Branch Presidents regularly. The most current information can be found on the Locals website npmhlocal303.org

I get calls and texts every day about rumors on the work room floor and they want me to confirm what they heard. The only information that the Union at every level (National, Local and Branch) will give out is substantiated facts. If we could understand or put ourselves in our coworker's shoes who people said tested positive and it's not true, how do you think they feel? We are not going to do that. The Local 303 Executive Board would like all mail handlers who send out text message regarding COVID-19, to please DO NOT add any names even if you know them to be true.

When it is confirmed that someone tested positive the Union will not provide a name or tour. We will inform you of the facility and job title. The latest information as of March 28, 2020 regarding numbers are: In the Postal Service its 2695 coworkers under quarantine and 111 have tested positive, in the Pacific Area 213 are quarantined and 2 tested positive.

The Union and Postal Service agreed on a MOU (Liberal Changes of Schedule and Leave). The change gives each employee the ability to make personal decisions about working while the exposure to COVID-19 is there. All leave taken for reasons related to COVID-19 should be treated as scheduled. It also instructs local management to be liberal with annual or LWOP requests that are related to COVID-19. All leave taken do to COVID-19 between the dates of February 29, 2020 and May 17, 2020, may not be cited in discipline for failing to maintain an assigned schedule.

The Postal Service has established a web-based link so that all employees can be kept informed via text alerts or emails. They must go to liteblue.usps.gov and select HERO. You can opt in or out the same way.

The shelter in place restrictions are being enforced by some police departments. The Postal Services put out a letter directed to the law enforcement that postal workers are essential service providers and not affected by State and Local government actions. The exemption covers travel time to and from their workplace.

All MOUs or references that are mentioned in this update can be requested from your Branch President, or you can download from the Local website. If those options don't work call the Local office and I will get you the document that you need.

The Union is committed to your safety and we are aware that hand sanitizer is not always readily available. The Local does feel that the Postal Service is making every effort to get hand sanitizer but it's in short supply all over. The simple task of washing your hands with soap and water will also prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. It will be a short video posted on the web explaining how the task of washing your hands will help.

The Local office will be operating under normal work hours, but the Executive Board agreed that abatement protocols need to be followed.