

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

Aug. 20, 2020

Face covering and mask update

Important reminders

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the Postal Service has continued to fulfill its critical mission to bind the nation together. Our employees are working hard to ensure we are there for our customers every day, serving as a lifeline for millions of people.

To help ensure your safety and wellness, the Postal Service reminds you of the following:

- All employees are required to wear face coverings when there is a state or local order or directive to do so.
- All employees are required to wear face coverings — including those who do not deal directly with the public — when they cannot achieve or maintain social distancing in the workplace.
- You should adhere to social distancing guidelines (6 feet) whenever possible while on delivery routes, at retail counters, and within the postal workplace: in plants, on docks and in lunch and break rooms.
- Practice proper hygiene by washing your hands often for a minimum of 20 seconds. When soap and water aren't available, use a 60-percent or higher alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Together, these steps can dramatically reduce transmission.

The CDC has other recommendations as well:

- 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.

You can always request a face covering or surgical mask from your supervisor. Or you may bring your own personal cloth face coverings to work for use while on duty. Masks with one-way valves or vents are not sufficient, as they allow exhaled air and respiratory droplets to reach others. An employee who cannot wear a face covering for health reasons should immediately contact his or her supervisor. A face shield may be considered as a suitable reasonable accommodation.

Taking these steps together will help us stay healthy and well so we can continue to be a stable, calming presence across the country.

Thank you for everything you're doing for our customers, for your co-workers, and for the United States Postal Service.

###