

# Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

March 18, 2020

## Guidance on Social Gatherings

Today, we want to provide information on guidance recently issued by the White House and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), regarding social gatherings. Avoiding social gatherings is a way to help reduce introduction of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) into new communities. It is believed to also help slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus.

Specifically, the [White House and CDC](#) now recommend avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people for a 15-day period in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. The safety and well-being of our employees is our highest priority. Therefore, in our stand up talks, we will stagger times with smaller groups indoors and/or hold them outside for larger spacing if possible.

It's important to note that the White House and CDC guidance states, "If you work in a critical infrastructure industry [which includes the Postal Service], you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule." Our core mission is to bind the nation together, and we continue to be a vital connection for millions of people throughout the nation. Be assured, the Postal Service is following operable CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

Several agencies, including the CDC, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the Director of the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases, have all indicated that there is currently no evidence that the coronavirus is being spread through the mail. The risk to employees continues to be low, according to health experts.

As always, we provide these reminders to help ensure the safety and well-being of employees.

- Avoid close contact (within six feet) with other people to the degree possible.
- 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.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use a 60-percent alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Follow CDC's recommendation that face masks only be worn by people who show symptoms of COVID-19, but know that we will provide face masks to employees who request them.

Our mission is clear and it is important – to serve the public and keep families, friends, and businesses connected and safe. Thank you for your commitment to service and for your dedication to our mission.

You also can find resources on the Postal Service's response to COVID-19 on our Blue and LiteBlue sites. We will continue to provide information to you as it becomes available. Thank you for your attention.