

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

April 21, 2020

Face covering and mask update

Cloth face coverings or masks are mandatory in support of local or state face covering directives or orders. In addition, face coverings and masks are mandatory in all facilities where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Throughout the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the Postal Service has continued to fulfill its critical mission to bind the nation together. Postal Service employees are working hard across the country to ensure we are there for our customers every day, serving as a lifeline for millions of people.

Your safety and wellness are of primary importance to the Postal Service. We continue to strongly recommend the use of face coverings per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. Many states are now mandating that face coverings are required in public settings.

As a result, we will modify our policy with face coverings to require all employees to wear face coverings in the following situations, until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer an issue:

- When there is a local or state face covering order or directive in place; or
- When an employee who does not deal directly with the public cannot achieve or maintain social distancing in the workplace.

You may request a face covering or surgical mask from your supervisor. Employees also may bring their own personal cloth face coverings to work for use while on duty. An employee who cannot wear a face covering for health reasons should immediately contact his or her supervisor.

You should not rely solely on the use of cloth face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You should also 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.

In addition to social distancing, please remember to follow these CDC recommended prevention methods:

- 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.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use a 60-percent or higher alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

The Postal Service provides an essential service to our nation. Customers are expressing their gratitude to us in every community we serve.

Taking steps to stay healthy and well means we can continue to be a stable, calming presence across the country.

Thank you for everything you are doing for our customers, and for your professionalism every day.

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