

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

Dec. 7, 2020

Essential services update: December 2020

The Postal Service is continuing normal operations while state and local governments deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in communities throughout the United States. Our customers are depending on us — especially during this peak holiday season — and we are taking unprecedented precautions to stay safe and to continue to deliver for our country.

It's important to know that the Postal Service is part of the critical infrastructure of this nation, and to clarify that as employees, you are providing an essential public service of the American government.

This means that for the purpose of engaging in your work for the Postal Service, you are exempt from “curfews,” “lockdowns,” “shelter-in-place” orders, general quarantines and other restrictions that may be imposed by state and local governments.

Postal Service employees travelling for work in areas with local curfews or travel restrictions should do **three** things:

One, whenever you travel, carry your Postal Service-issued identification (ID) badge and the Essential Service Provider letter that I will pass out after we finish this talk. These will provide you with justification in case you are stopped by state or local law enforcement.

Two, if encountered or stopped by state or local law enforcement officials enforcing travel restrictions, respectfully show your postal-issued ID and Essential Service Provider letter to identify yourself as a postal employee or postal contractor.

And **three**, explain the nature of your work for the Postal Service and the reason why you are travelling, either from home to work, during the workday, or returning home from work.

With this information, the state or local official should allow your travel. If you run into further issues, contact your supervisor. Have your supervisor's contact information — phone number and email address — with you at all times.

We are working closely with federal, state and local health authorities to ensure that our operations are conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

We are in communication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations to help ensure that you and our customers have the latest information regarding COVID-19.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or are experiencing its symptoms, you should not come to work, and should take leave, which will be liberally approved.

Employees who wish to remain at home under state or local directives can request the use of leave in accordance with applicable postal policies and other federal laws.

And finally, I'd like to remind you of our Employee Assistance Program, E.A.P., which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 1-800-EAP-4-YOU, (1-800-327-4968). There is also assistance available for the hearing impaired, at 1-877-492-7341. And the E.A.P. website is: ***www.eap4you.com***.

Thank you for your professionalism and commitment, and for all you do for our customers, your co-workers, and the Postal Service.

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