

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO**

Re: Temporary Workplace Changes to Promote Social Distancing – COVID-19

The parties agree that the social distancing recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are important measures which should be practiced as much as possible to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Some of those social distancing recommendations for the workplace include increasing physical space between workers, staggering work schedules, limiting large work-related gatherings, and reducing or eliminating travel.

With that in mind, the parties agree that in postal installations with 100 or more workyears of employment, to minimize the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus or the possibility of unknowingly spreading the coronavirus to a larger portion of the workforce by working in multiple facilities, to the extent possible all city letter carriers will work in their employing facility for the duration of this agreement. In addition, to the extent possible the Memorandum of Understanding *Re: City Carrier Assistants – Temporary Assignments to Other Post Offices* will not be in effect for the duration of this agreement.

In postal installations with less than 100 workyears of employment, work in facilities other than the letter carrier's employing facility should be limited to where they routinely worked prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local parties (i.e. branch presidents and postmasters, or their designees) will immediately discuss potential scheduling and office setup changes which would create a work environment that promotes social distancing. Such changes should include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Staggered letter carrier start times to begin as early as operationally feasible.
2. Scheduling letter carriers to begin their tours in groups of 10 or less to practice social distancing at the timeclock.
3. Where possible, scheduling groups of 10 or less carriers to begin their tours in increments of a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of two hours apart.
4. Start times should be staggered between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. for letter routes.
5. Start times for all routes in test sites, for collection routes, and for combination routes may be scheduled prior to 5:30 a.m. and after 9:30 a.m., however they should still be staggered and scheduled in groups of 10 or less carriers to promote social distancing.
6. Conducting stand-up talks in a manner that allows employees to be separated from each other by 6 feet or more, such as using small groups or an intercom system.

7. Staggered break schedules in the office to allow employees to maintain groups not to exceed 10 people.
8. Moving office breaks to the street on an individual voluntary basis.
9. Where possible, scheduling letter carriers in a manner which would allow them to stagger their departure from office duties to street duties.
10. Volunteers may be utilized for AM parcel runs in order to increase social distancing during casing duties.
11. Adjusting any other practice in the office to allow employees to be separated from each other by 6 feet or more

Consideration will be given to the location of letter carrier cases, the location of mail staging areas, the location and number of time clocks, the size and number of break areas, etc. Local parties will discuss temporary changes to the location of any of the above subjects in order to promote at least 6 feet of separation for all employees.

If the local parties require any additional guidance or clarification on implementation of this agreement, they should contact the appropriate Area Manager, Labor Relations and National Business Agent.

The national parties will revisit this issue immediately prior to this MOU's expiration to determine if extension is appropriate.

This MOU will expire May 27, 2020.


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