



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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Local 303 COVID-19 Virus Update # 8

We continue to process record amounts of mail at a higher level than we do in peak season. The increase is in the parcel volume that in most facilities is majority mail handler work. Last week the Pacific Area processed over 30 million parcels with no end in sight. The percentage of craft employees that are showing up for work continues to increase, this week we were 82% at work.

The Unions and the Postal Service are in ongoing communications to keep all employees safe. They have agreed to start screening employee body temperatures in a few facilities back East. The test will measure if it should be implemented on a national level, and to judge the effectiveness of temperature taking. Similar to face coverings, I am behind this process 100 percent.

District confirmed positive cases for Los Angeles is 12, San Diego is 15, Santa Ana is 9, and Sierra Coastal is 19. These are the positive tests only for the Pacific Area (Covering all of California and Hawaii) I am only reporting Local 303 districts. Local 303 also covers Las Vegas which is in the Western Area. They are not as forthcoming with their numbers. The best 2 statistics are total postal employees that have returned to work is 15,475 and Pacific Area employees that are back at work is 923.

The Postal Service recently updated the strict guidelines for the 15,475 employees that returned to work must pass before they are permitted to rejoin the workforce. This is one more step showing that for now the Union and Management are working together to keep us safe.

As restrictions are eased and we begin to venture out, I caution you not to relax on the safety measures that you use at work. If it keeps you safe at work then it should help protect you out in public. As of now there's no cure or vaccine, and for some unclear reason we are not getting testing done equally around the country.

Please understand that one of us being reckless can affect us all. If you have children pass on some simple safety tips, they may not be in tune with the way the country has changed. Most children and young adults process news and information differently than we do. They could hear the reports that echo how the Coronavirus is not causing the younger people to become sick. We must connect the dots for them about being asymptomatic, and the possibility that spreading the virus to others may make them seriously ill.

Eddie Cowan
Local President