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# Official Bulletin of

BRANCH 34, BOSTON  
Jerry McCarthy, President

4/3/2020

## CARRIER FLASH

### PLEASE READ AND POST

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

The Branch has been receiving numerous phone calls with Carriers that are concerned and making inquiries about the Coronavirus Pandemic here are the current updates:

We are canceling Branch activities as timing of these events draws closer. We have now cancelled the April Monthly meeting scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. We have Postponed the Retiree's luncheon scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 and we are being told that we cannot reschedule at this time due to social distancing. Even when social distancing is lifted the plan is that it will be lifted gradually in numbers, so function halls are not booking large events. The NALC Food drive has been postponed with a date TBD. We are negotiating with The Golf Course and may have to cancel the Branch #34 Golf Tournament. We have also postponed the MDA bowlathon once and are checking on moving the May 17<sup>th</sup> date too. I am waiting to see if the social distancing restrictions are relaxed on April 30<sup>th</sup> concerning the May Monthly Meeting.

We have checked on Letter Carriers having access to one of the First Responder testing sites and this request has been sent to HQ by District Manager Mike Rakes. We have requested greater Social distancing in the Stations with staggered start times and possible use of 1260's for begin times and this request was honored thru (M-01915). Management has also been allowed to hire Temporary CCA's to cover absences from Coronavirus leave requests(M-01916). There also have been some changes in amounts and types of leave that can be used. CCA's are allowed to use up to 80 hours Additional leave until 5/17/2020 under M-01911 which shows the criteria used. There have also been temporary changes in FMLA leave "Families First Coronavirus Response Act" will be in effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> thru the end of the year.

*Jerry McCarthy*

Jerry McCarthy  
President Br #34



**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:

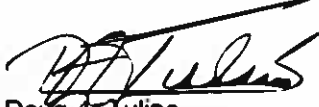
1. Staggered letter carrier start times to begin as early as operationally feasible.
2. Scheduling letter carriers to begin their tours in groups of 10 or less to practice social distancing at the timeclock.
3. Where possible, scheduling groups of 10 or less carriers to begin their tours in increments 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.

  
Doug A. Tulino  
Vice President, Labor Relations  
United States Postal Service

  
Fredric V. Rolando  
President  
National Association of Letter  
Carriers, AFL-CIO

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

**Re: Temporary Carrier Assistants – COVID-19**

The Postal Service may employ Temporary Carrier Assistants during the period between the signing of this agreement and May 27, 2020, as operationally necessary to replace city letter carriers absent due to COVID-19.


Temporary Carrier Assistants are subject to the following:

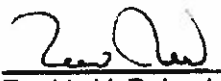
- The hourly rate will be the same as that for City Carrier Assistants.
- Over the course of a service week, the Employer will make every effort to ensure that available city carrier assistants are utilized at the straight-time rate prior to assigning such work to temporary carrier assistants working in the same work location.
- When an opportunity exists for overtime, full-time employees on the appropriate Overtime Desired List will be selected to perform such work prior to assigning temporary carrier assistants to work overtime in the same work location where the employees regularly work.
- To minimize the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus by working in multiple facilities, to the extent possible, all temporary carrier assistants will work in their employing facility for the duration of this agreement.

The Postal Service shall provide the NALC with reports on the number of temporary carrier assistants hired.

The 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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Doug A. Vulino  
Vice President, Labor Relations  
United States Postal Service

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Fredric V. Rolando  
President  
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Carriers, AFL-CIO