

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

March 25, 2020

Staying vigilant

COVID-19 Response and Prevention

On March 24, 2020 we learned that an employee at the Syracuse P&DC, Customer Service tested positive for COVID-19. Consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the employee won't return to work until cleared.

We are in the process of working with the local Department of Health and will follow their guidance. We believe the risk is low for employees who work at the Syracuse P&DC, Customer Service but we will keep you updated as we receive new information.

While we understand you may want to know who is sick, under the Rehabilitation Act and the Privacy Act, specific employee medical information must be kept confidential and may only be shared in very limited circumstances. Therefore, the Postal Service cannot share the name of the employee who tested positive for COVID-19 or their medical condition. The safety and well-being of our employees is our highest priority, but we must also protect our employees' privacy.

To protect the health of our employees, we are continuing to follow recommended guidance and strategies from the CDC. This includes cleaning in accordance with CDC cleaning guidelines specific to COVID-19 and following other CDC guidance, to include:

- Encouraging sick employees to stay home and consult their health care providers.
- Increasing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces in the workplace (such as consoles, door knobs, countertops, work stations, etc.).
- Equipping all restrooms with towels and soap.
- We are posting additional information on bulletin boards at postal facilities across the Albany District and around the nation. These additional postings, created by the CDC, discuss how to respond if you experience symptoms and more information about COVID-19.

It's important to remember that the best defense against sickness is good personal hygiene. Practice good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds at a time and cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing using your elbow or a tissue, and then discard the tissue if you use one.

As always, EAP continues to be available 24 hours a day at 1-800-EAP-4-YOU or online at www.EAP4YOU.com. You may already know that EAP provides coaching, referrals and short-term counseling. You will also find the EAP services include crisis response, a health resource library and in-the-moment support available to you and your family as needed. EAP is a benefit of your postal employment. Thank you for your attention.