



THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ

July 2020

COVID-19 Second Edition



What are the facts of COVID-19?

Over the past many months, we have learned many things about COVID-19 but there are still many unknowns. We recently had an executive order from Governor Polis requiring everyone to wear masks in public places or where the public could be invited. The guidelines can be viewed at [covid19.colorado.gov](https://www.covid19.colorado.gov). We are posting all of the new information on the Colorado State Association website at www.cosalc.org as we get it and can be located at www.cosalc.org. There are many branches throughout Colorado that want to give this information out to its members so we decided to put it at once central location. We have included many items sent to us by NALC headquarters and the Region 4 National Business Agent's Office in Denver.

You can also visit www.nalc.org on the Safety & Health page to get more information. NALC President Rolando issued a statement on July 15th, 2020 and it is also on the website along with all the previous statements President Rolando has issued since March.

The letter can be read in its entirety on the website. You will also be able to see the required cleaning methods by USPS suggested by the CDC.

CDC has recommended several tips for everyone to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19, such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice social distancing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-percent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Stay home

By joint agreement ([M-01924](#)), several COVID related memorandums of understanding have been further extended through September 25, 2020. These memoranda include: temporary expanded sick leave for dependent care ([M-01910](#)); temporary additional paid leave for CCAs ([M-01911](#)); temporary use of the 7:01 rule ([M-01913](#)); temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing ([M-01915](#)); and temporary use of TCAs ([M-01916](#)).

Also extended through September 25th is a USPS memorandum ([M-01914](#)) which instructs managers and supervisors to allow liberal changes of schedule to accommodate employees who are dealing with childcare issues related to the pandemic. The memorandum also provides for liberal sick leave usage for employees who are sick and liberal annual and leave without pay (LWOP) to the extent operationally feasible, treats COVID-19 related leave as scheduled (as opposed to unscheduled) leave, and directs that leave taken for COVID-19 related reasons during this time not be cited in discipline for failing to maintain an assigned schedule.

Each of the MOUs and the USPS directive can be found in NALC's Materials Reference System on the NALC website.

Supplies are being ordered by all of the offices the branch represents but many items are on backorder. The district has encouraged offices to order the necessary supplies to make their own hand sanitizer and these items have been ordered as well.

Information on the COVID-19 virus is still changing but we all need to do our part from spreading the virus. There have been many recent mandatory standup talks that have been sent out to be given in the offices. If your office hasn't received the required talks, be sure to let your steward know. All of the mandatory standup talks are also located at www.cosalc.org.

Please don't hesitate to contact your local steward or any other branch officer with any questions you have regarding what we are going through concerning COVID-19. We will do our best to get you the answers to your questions but we may need to verify with others first to clarify the facts depending on the situation.

The NALC is also in discussions with the USPS on some additional MOUs that could come out in the very near future.

When these are negotiated and distributed, we will post them on the website. Please check back daily for any updates on relevant information pertaining our current situation.

Thank you for all you do as letter carriers and being there for your customers and each other. Please keep yourself safe and be sure to follow the proper guidelines to stay healthy.