



THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ



March 2020

COVID-19 Edition

What are the facts of COVID-19?

There are still many unknowns on the COVID-19 virus that is affecting so many across our country. We are posting all of the new information on the branch website at www.nalcbranch324.com as we get it. We have included many items sent to us by NALC headquarters and the Region 4 National Business Agent's Office in Denver. Please take time to check out all of the items on the home page of the website.

You can also visit www.nalc.org on the Safety & Health page to get more information. NALC President Rolando issued a statement on March 18, 2020 and it is also on the website.

“The situation surrounding the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is rapidly evolving. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is constantly updating its recommendations to the public regarding safeguards and precautions we should all be taking. As a union, we have made sure to keep this guidance current and provide links to important information on the Safety and Health section of the NALC website. Additionally, information has been distributed to the 15 national business agents (NBAs) throughout the country to provide advice to the branches and our members. Mandatory Stand-Up Talks have been issued by USPS headquarters to be given in every post office across the nation. Much of the information included here has been or will be covered in those standup talks. NALC has been in close contact with USPS HQ and is providing edits and inputs to each standup talk that is distributed to be given to employees. Standup talks will be posted on the safety and health page of NALC's website. Please check it often to be sure standup talks are given in your office.”

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.**

Continued in next column

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**

Two new MOUs were also signed on March 18, 2020 between the NALC and the USPS.

The MOU *Re: Temporary Expanded Sick Leave for Dependent Care During COVID-19* ([M-01910](#)) temporarily expands the purposes for sick leave for dependent care to include unexpected childcare needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MOU *Re: Temporary Additional Paid Leave for CCAs* ([M-01911](#)) creates a temporary category of paid leave for use by CCAs for a number of circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. As soon as these items are received, they will be distributed. Information on the COVID-19 virus is changing constantly. 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 branch home page at www.nalcbranch324.com.

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.