

MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS

STATEMENT

The United States Postal Service has modified its policy on face coverings and is now requiring all employees to wear cloth face coverings or masks where a mandatory local or state directive exists.

Face coverings or masks are also mandatory for employees in all facilities — postal or otherwise — where social distancing practices cannot be properly maintained. These measures have been put in place to continue to ensure the safety and well-being of our employees and the communities they serve. The policy will remain in effect until further notice.

The Postal Service has been following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) throughout the ongoing [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) outbreak as it continues to fulfill its critical mission to bind the nation together and deliver for our customers.

FAQS

1. Why did the Postal Service change its employee policy?

The Postal Service has been following the guidance of the ~~Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)~~ throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. As the CDC policy evolved, so has the Postal Service policy.

2. How are face coverings being mandated?

If there is a state or local ordinance in place mandating the wearing of face coverings, we have aligned our policy with such ordinances and are requiring our employees to wear face coverings. Face coverings include both Postal Service provided disposable masks and reusable cloth face coverings, as well as personal face coverings which the employee may wish to use while on duty. Employees are also required to wear face coverings whenever social distancing practices (six feet from others) cannot be properly maintained, regardless of whether there is a local or state order in place.

3. How many locations require face coverings?

The list is fluid. Employees should check local requirements. Some information can be found at: <https://web.csg.org/covid19/executive-orders/>.

4. How many employees does this affect?

Tens of thousands of postal employees will be mandated to wear face coverings in locations with mandatory directives in place. This includes carriers delivering the mail, retail employees servicing customers and employees inside mail processing facilities where social distancing isn't always possible.

5. What about clerks in post offices?

Retail clerks are required to wear face coverings while working the counter serving customers in those jurisdictions that have implemented mandatory face covering orders. This requirement is in effect and is in addition to social distancing measures where there is tape on the floors separating customers by six feet and where there are shields in place in our retail units. However, retail clerks are not required to use a face covering in

the back ~~officer room~~ areas of a retail unit, provided that proper social distancing (six feet from others) can be achieved. This includes nonuse of face coverings during their breaks while within the facility, and while the employee is retrieving mail items from the back ~~office room~~-areas, provided that proper social distancing can be maintained with other employees.

6. Are employees required to wear face coverings in the back office and/or on the workroom floor?

If employees cannot maintain the required six feet of distance from others, they are required to wear a face covering or mask.

7. What about postal or contract drivers?

Wearing face coverings is required if it's mandatory in the location in which they are working. Drivers do not have to wear face coverings while driving, unless there is a passenger(s) in the vehicle and social distancing cannot be properly maintained while driving.

8. Does the Postal Service have enough face coverings?

Yes. The Postal Service has been continually purchasing masks and face coverings for its employees and has an ample supply. Reusable cloth face coverings issued at facilities are to be laundered by the employee and used repeatedly consistent with included instructions.

9. Are employees wearing N-95 respirators?

Postal employees are not wearing N-95 respirators unless their responsibilities are consistent with this level of barrier protection in accordance with normal procedures outside of COVID-19.

10. What do employees do if they cannot wear masks or face coverings for health reasons?

Employees that fall into this category need to discuss the matter with their supervisor. The supervisor should then confer with local Occupational Health Nurse and offer a reasonable accommodation. The District Reasonable Accommodation Committee can review as to whether an accommodation should be made.