

March 23, 2020

Members-

As you all know by now, a fellow Mail Handler here tested positive for COVID-19 this past week. Also true, is the fact that the employee had not been to work since March 9th. The next fact is that other employees had been around the employee while the employee was asymptomatic and those employees had been at work for a few days prior to the positive test. Those are the facts; now for the rant, opinions, and feelings of yours truly.

I feel that the USPS at the highest levels was ill-prepared for this situation, which is ridiculous seeing that it is a national business that had already had a half dozen positive instances in several other facilities. That being said, I believe that Plant Manager Brian Kelso, who I've had my differences with, is doing a good job trying to ensure the safety of the employees. I sometimes worry about the managers above him, but I do endorse the steps that he is taking and I have seen him going to bat for the employees under his watch, unfortunately there is bureaucracy, bs, and public relations crap that also weighs into the equation. The safety of my Mail Handlers is my number one concern and I will continue to fight with not only Brian, but anyone above him that I feel isn't doing what is in the best interests of the workers here.

Pills, bills, and packages still need to be delivered because the USPS does play an integral and essential role in the lives of Americans. Remember, that is a fact that we always use to our benefit, unfortunately it also can play to our detriment. However, it is also a right to be provided a safe work environment. If you don't feel safe, then please take the time that you need to do so. There is a liberal leave policy in effect for right now, but you will be using your own A/L, S/L, or LWOP. While the mail is an essential service, we as humans are also essential to our families and friends and we also need to think about their safety, as well as ours. Please exercise prudence with your decisions.

No doubt, there will be a lot of rumors, untruths, and misquotes floating around on the work floor. Please do not take them as gospel. If you have questions or comments; get in touch with me. I am in the meetings and I am looking out for us, not just the Mail Handlers but the entire Plant, and I will give you straight answers, not just the postal party-line.

Here's the bottom line, I am not a medical professional and neither is anyone else in this facility, so we need to follow the guidance of the people who are. If you feel sick, absolutely stay home. I firmly believe that it's better to err on the side of caution. If you don't feel safe then do what you need to do.

Finally, try not to play into the panic and hysteria. Do not ostracize anyone; treat people the way that you wish to be treated. That is a rule for everyday living, but it is also a key one in times of crisis. We are all humans and we all have people that care about us. Be caring and concerned and don't feed into a frenzy that creates division and separation. Most of all, think of not only your safety and health, but also the safety and health of everyone around you.

Stay United, Stay Strong, and most of all Stay Safe and Healthy-

Sean