



National Association of Letter Carriers

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MEMORANDUM

From the Desk of **Manuel L. Peralta Jr.**
Director of Safety & Health

April 8, 2020

To: **All Regions and Branches**

Subject: **Facility Cleaning - Post COVID-19**

On February 3, 2020, the USPS issued a Maintenance Management Order (MMO-031-20) containing the following advisory notice:

“...This Maintenance Management Order (MMO) supersedes MMO-109-09 and contains updated information reflecting the guidance issued from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding methods to reduce the spread of viruses that cause respiratory illness, such as influenza (flu) and coronavirus...”

...For the most current information, sites should always consult the CDC influenza resources for business and coronavirus disease...” (emphasis added)

The NALC Bulletin (No. 20-02 3/14/2020) made reference to the above MMO on the subject of required daily cleaning.

Recently we were advised of number of employees who were confirmed as positive following COVID-19 testing, and who had been in the work environment immediately prior to the confirmation.

Local union representatives expressed concern that the employer was not following the most recent CDC recommendations. The employer defended its actions through reliance on MMO-031-20, ignoring the instruction to get the most recent information directly from the CDC.

On April 1, 2020, the CDC issued a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on the subject of Presymptomatic Transmission of SARS-CoV-2, which I distributed on to you all on 4/1/2020 at about 4:30 PM. That document made it clear that transmission was detected even before symptoms were present. Essentially, the CDC indicates that it is possible to spread the disease through mere breathing, and without coughing and sneezing.

On April 1, 2020, the CDC also updated its “Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility Guide”. On the second page of that document employers are advised as follows:

Cleaning and disinfecting your building or facility if someone is sick

- **Close off areas used by the sick person.**
- **Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.**

- **Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines.**
- **If more than 7 days since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.**

The above advice from the CDC anticipates that airing out a facility for 24 hours is a necessary step to providing the safest environment possible.

MMO-031-20 is now outdated and union activists need to push for compliance with CDCs updated recommendation.

The information gathered and reported by the CDC is a moving target and it is in everyone's best interest to go to the CDC's web site often to stay informed and as up to date as possible.

We thank you all for your hard work in this challenging situation.