

As the Covid-19 Pandemic continues, our Postal Affairs team remains committed to keeping you informed with up to date developments related to USPS operations during this time of uncertainty. As a significant mailing industry partner, we are in a unique position to provide clear and accurate information, dispel rumors and suggest best practices during the pandemic. Please notify the Quad Postal Affairs team when you become aware of any changes, questions or something new related to how the USPS is reacting. We will investigate and update all. Please send inquiries to the Quad Postal Affairs Distribution list (Postal Affairs – Team) or ask your Quad representative.

There were several areas of significant development in the last week:

Update on the overall state of affairs for the USPS

Since our update last week there have been a variety of developments, legislative actions and USPS announcements, but overall the **postal service is fully functional**, and in some cases, service is actually providing faster than normal service due to reduced mail volume.

The USPS has provided volume statistics compared to the same period last year:

Total	Down 29.7%
Flats	Down 36.6%
Single Piece	Down 25%
First Presort	Down 8%
Marketing Mail	Down 50%
Periodicals	Down 7.4%
Packages	Up 29%

Delivery Performance

The USPS continues to make it clear that despite significant volume reductions, they are operating normally with delivery 6 days a week. If there are any places where that USO is not occurring, it is due to isolated contingency plans being put into effect and 6-day delivery will resume as soon as it is feasibly possible. We have also heard of isolated instances where local retail services may be suspended temporarily for health reasons, but we have no reports of this impacting business mailing operations.

Postal Solutions, and in particular Postal Affairs, are working daily with the USPS to ensure our clients mail is delivered and monitoring any issues that may arise. We'll be updating this information as often as is necessary to be sure everyone has the correct information.

USPS Marketing

The USPS has produced a new TV commercial focusing on commitment that began airing April 20. It features Postmaster General Megan Brennan as the voiceover. The spot has the theme, "We have always been there and always will" Here is a link to the commercial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuNLLZcSTKE>

Policy Updates

- *CAPS to EPS Migration update:*

The USPS announced some important dates associated with the migration from CAPS to EPS:

- **Cancellation of Permits linked to a CAPS account with no activity.** On April 19, permits without any activity in the previous 12 months were cancelled and the CAPS account closed. Any remaining balances can be refunded by contacting the CAPS service center.
- **Active CAPS Trust Permits with a Business Customer Gateway (BCG) account.** Active trust account customers can migrate to EPS until May 1, 2020. After May 1, the Postal service will close the CAPS account and EPS account will be created. Any remaining CAPS funds will transfer to the new EPS account.
- **Active CAPS Trust Permits without a BCG account.** Active trust customers who do NOT have a BCG account have until August 1, 2020 to migrate to EPS. After August 1st the CAPS account will be closed. Not creating an EPS account and linking their permits could impact mail acceptance.
- **Permits linked to a CAPS debit account.** Effective August 1, 2020, CAPS debit permits will no longer be funded as the CAPS account will be closed.

If you are still using a CAPS account and have questions about the migration to EPS, please contact your CE Mail Specialist to start the planning process to complete your migration by August 1.

- *COVID-19 related delays to Priority Mail and First-Class Package Services:*

The USPS has announced that Priority Mail and First-Class Packages may require more delivery time due to limited transportation availability. Here are the details of their announcement:

- Priority Mail Express and local 1-day Priority will not change.
- Priority Mail two and three day are now extended to three and four day respectively. Customers will continue to receive end-to-end visibility, improved product tracking as well as up to \$50 in free insurance. With the extra day extension, customers should expect delivery using Priority Mail Open and Distribute (PMOD) to range from two to four days nationwide.
- First Class Package Service (FCPS) two and three day service is also being extended to three and four days.

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- Global Express Guaranteed Services has also been altered. For details refer to usps.com

Legislative Updates

Certain members of the House and Senate pushed for a \$25 billion cash infusion for the Postal Service as part of the last stimulus package, but unfortunately the Administration opposed a direct appropriation for the USPS. Negotiators ultimately opted to include only a \$10 billion line of credit. Postal management has said that amount would be insufficient for preventing fiscal calamity this year.

CALL TO ACTION:

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a substantial impact on the nation's economy, and affects every industry. Congress has shown a willingness to ensure the viability of the USPS during this emergency and by extension the viability of mailers across the country. Unfortunately, the White House does not share that same willingness.

Congress is considering another COVID related stimulus bill. Please contact your U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators and urge their continued support for the USPS through a direct appropriation. But it cannot stop there — Congress must impress upon the White House the critical role the USPS plays in the lives of their constituents as the only universal communication format that delivers medications, health related information, stimulus checks and so much more to the American public on a daily basis. The mailing industry and the 7.3 million people it employs are counting on Congress and the President to ensure that the USPS remains viable. The American people cannot wait any longer for our leaders in Washington to step up and support them — the time to act is now.

In this incredible period of disruption, misinformation and rumors are likely to surface. Please notify the Quad Postal Affairs team when you become aware of any changes, questions or something new related to how the USPS is reacting. We will investigate and update all. Please send inquiries to the Postal Affairs Distribution list (Postal Affairs – Team) or contact your representative.

See how we can help.

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