

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, with some isolated hot spots experiencing service delays due to staffing shortages.

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

Total	Down 28.4%
Flats	Down 37.4%
Single Piece	Down 16.6%
First Presort	Down 2%
Marketing Mail	Down 43.7%
Periodicals	Down 38.7%
Packages	Up 50%

## **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.

There have been some instances of service delays, particularly in NY and MI where the Covid-19 virus is most prevalent and affecting staffing. As previously stated, 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.

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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.

### Postal in the press

In the midst of this pandemic, the postal service, and it's long term health have been a topic of discussion in the press. But there are also a variety of positive stories of front line postal workers, going above and beyond in there communities. Here are a few stories:

- 1.) <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/colerain-township/colerain-township-mail-carrier-delivers-supplies-to-elderly-people-on-his-route>
- 2.) <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/living/story/23-year-ohio-mailman-delivering-essential-goods-community-70041762>
- 3.) <https://www.fox19.com/video/2020/04/07/mail-carrier-offers-help-customers-amid-pandemic/>

### USPS National Map

The USPS has updated its national map that provides a graphic presentation of operations. The USPS National Map is an external facing GIS map showing the location and status of postal facilities alongside hazards and other authoritative layers from entities like NOAA, NWS (weather-related) and GeoMAC (for fires). This map is dynamic and other layers may be added or removed as appropriate. The map has many levels of data that can be displayed visually and is updated every 5 min. The map can be found at the link below. At the top there is an excellent user guide.

<https://uspstools.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1fc1c26bb31246b39087606c65b83020>

### POLICY UPDATES

#### Hold Policy Update:

The USPS has announced that the hold mail date is being extended from April 30th to May 30th. As states and business start to reopen in stages, the Postal Service will be providing localized messaging for business to remember to come and pickup their held mail. In cases where mail is not picked up and is returned, the Postal Service is working on a solution to prevent them from being undocumented because the 45-day uniqueness has expired.

We expect the USPS to announce how they plan to address this later this week.

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The USPS is also looking to set a timeframe for mailing that were produced but held before mailing. The Postal Service is looking at the June 30 timeframe where Covid-19 related holds need to be released as mail without penalty. Mailings released after June 30 will be allowed but will incur additional costs associated with the age of the data used to prepare the mailing.

The Postal Service is currently working on the policy document related to areas of scorecard concern:

- Barcode Uniqueness
- Move Update
- Mis-shaped
- Undocumented
- DPV

### Legislative Updates

Last Friday, the USPS was at the center of the national news media when President Trump criticized the operations of the Postal Service and alluded that unless they significantly raised package pricing, he would block the \$10 billion treasury loan granted in the last version of the CARES act. The mailing industry continues to lobby for a solution to the long term issue.

### 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. As in past weekly updates, we have provided a sample letter that can be personalized with company information and sent to congressional representatives.

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.

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See how we can help.

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