

**Sisters and Brothers,**

**Please see the chart below. Around the country, cases of COVID-19 are increasing throughout the general population. The numbers of COVID-19 quarantines at the Postal Service are also rising. We are now at the highest number of quarantines since the pandemic began. We do not want to see any postal employees or their families infected or quarantined due to COVID-19. As we head into the flu and cold weather seasons, we want to remind you of the [newest guidance from the CDC on mask wearing](#). The CDC has recently cited studies that show masks not only helps to prevent a person who is infected with COVID-19 (symptomatic or asymptomatic) from spreading the virus, but also the wearer is afforded some protection from inhaling respiratory droplets containing the virus as well from others. The CDC also reminds us that masks are not a substitute for social distancing but should be worn in addition to social distancing. The APWU supports the wearing of masks while at work no matter if a mask mandate is in place in the local jurisdiction.**

**It is important for all of us to enforce the safety and health policies and procedures that USPS management has put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 at the Post Office. These include mask mandates, proper cleaning procedures, employees staying home when they are sick or show symptoms of COVID-19, and the required social distancing protocols on the workroom floor and customer service areas to name a few. Getting the pandemic under control is an effort we all must be active participants in to help reverse the trends we are seeing in the chart below.**

**Please Disseminate**

