

# U.S. Postal Service sets 2020 election mail preparedness efforts

## Press Release

The United States Postal Service’s number one priority between now and the November election is the secure, on time delivery of the nation’s Election Mail.

In August, the Postmaster General committed to ensuring that additional resources would be made available in all areas of operations beginning October 1 to ensure the timely delivery and expeditious handling of the increased volume of Election Mail.

The Postmaster General requested the issuance of an internal directive, effective October 1, to authorize and instruct the use of these additional resources to ensure that all Election Mail is prioritized and delivered securely and on-time. These additional resources go beyond the significant resources already dedicated to Election Mail which were specified in an earlier directive issued on September 21, and a stand-up talk to Postal Service employees issued on September 24.

The information provided below is illustrative but not exhaustive of the operational readiness measures the Postal Service has implemented ahead of the November election.

**Processing of Election Mail: Ensuring Election Mail Moves Expeditiously**  
The September 25 directive outlines additional processing resources that are authorized and instructed to be used beginning October 1 to ensure that Election Mail stays current and moving

through the Postal Service’s network. This includes, but is not limited to, the resources mentioned below:

- Election Mail entered as Marketing Mail should be advanced ahead of all other Marketing Mail and processed expeditiously to the extent feasible so that it is generally delivered in line with First-Class Mail delivery standards.

- Processing windows on letter and flat sorting equipment should be expanded as necessary to ensure that all Election Mail received prior to the First-Class Mail Critical Entry Time is processed that same day.

- To the extent possible, Election Mail received after the First Class Mail Critical Entry Time should be processed and advanced as if it arrived prior to the First Class Mail Critical Entry Time, unless doing so would disrupt on-time service for Election Mail received prior to the First Class Mail Critical Time Entry.

- Processing windows for cancellation operations should be expanded to ensure all collected ballots are processed in a timely manner. Each cancellation site will have expanded processing windows for the week prior to and including Election Day.

**Transportation: Ensuring Election Mail Reaches Its Destination**

- Extra transportation resources are authorized and instructed to be used to ensure that Election Mail reaches its intended destination in a timely manner.

- This use of extra transportation includes, but is not limited to, extra trips from all points of processing and delivery (e.g., retail units and plants), as necessary to connect Election Mail to its intended destination or the next stage in Postal Service processing.

**Extra Delivery/**

**Collections: Getting Completed Ballots to Appropriate Election Officials**

- Extra delivery and collection should be used to ensure, to the best of our ability, that completed ballots entered on Election Day reach the appropriate election official by the state’s designated deadline on Election Day.

- This includes, but is not limited to, early collections the week before Election Day to ensure all collected

ballots are processed in a timely manner, and delivery of ballots found in collections on Election Day to election boards within states requiring that ballots be returned by a designated time on Election Day.

**Overtime: Staffing Teams to Deliver on Election Mail**

- Overtime is authorized and instructed to be used to support these additional resources and the completion of the additional work, as needed.

**Expedited Handling, Extra Deliveries, Special Pick-Ups**

- To further support the timely delivery of Election Mail, and consistent with practices in past election cycles, the use of extraordinary measures beyond normal course of operations is authorized and expected to be executed by local management between October 26 and November 24 to accelerate the delivery of ballots,

(Continued on page 11.)

## HOLMES COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION \*AMENDED POLL WORKER TRAINING NOVEMBER 3, 2020

**ALL POLL WORKER TRAININGS will be held at 6:30 P.M. nightly for the November 3, 2020 General Election. It is mandatory that all potential Poll Workers attend training.**

### REMEMBER:

- If you are not a registered voter, you cannot work as a Poll Worker.
- If you are campaigning for a candidate, you cannot be employed as a Poll Worker.

**Thursday, October 08, 2020**

**Beat 4 Thornton  
Beat 5 Cruger  
Beat 4 Lexington  
Beat 5 Tchula**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

**Beat 2 Durant  
Beat 2 Williams Sullivan High  
Beat 2 West  
Beat 3 Coxburg**

**Wednesday, October 14, 2020**

**Beat 3 Ebenezer  
Beat 3 Goodman  
Beat 3 Pickens  
Beat 1 Durant-Saint Andrews**

**Thursday, October 15, 2020**

**Beat 1 Acona  
Beat 1 Lexington  
Beat 4 Walden Chapel**

### ENCODERS ONLY

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

**Beat 2 Durant  
Beat 2 Sub Durant Williams Sullivan  
Beat 2 West  
Beat 1 Lexington  
Beat 3 Coxburg  
Beat 1 Durant  
Beat 1 Acona**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

**Beat 5 Tchula  
Beat 3 Ebenezer  
Beat 3 Goodman  
Beat 4 Thornton  
Beat 5 Cruger  
Beat 3 Pickens  
Beat 4 Lexington  
Beat 4 Walden Chapel**

### NO MAKE-UP TRAINING

**If interested, you may attend a workshop for the regular Poll Workers & Encoders.**

**All training sessions will be at the Holmes County Circuit Court Complex located at 22549 Depot Street next door to the Lexington Multi-Purpose Building, formerly known as the Old National Guard Armory Building.**

**If you have questions,  
please call The Circuit Clerk’s Office @ 662-834-2476**

**Submitted by Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk  
&  
Holmes County Election Commissioners**

**\*\*\*Extended days for COVID 19**

# Some universities cutting spring break amid pandemic

## Associated Press

Several Mississippi colleges and universities have decided to cut spring break in favor of ending their second semesters early because of safety concerns amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The University of Mississippi, Mississippi State and the University of Southern Mississippi, for example, will all forgo spring break this year to end classes in mid-April, officials announced.

The decision was made to decrease the risk of students traveling mid-semester.

“These modifications help us continue to protect our students and employees while holding a full semester of teaching and learning,” David Shaw, Mississippi State provost and executive vice president, said in a

statement.

At Mississippi State, second semester classes begin Jan. 6 and end April 19. Spring classes will still begin on Jan. 20 for the University of Southern Mississippi and conclude April 22.

At the University of Mississippi, classes start Jan. 19 and end April 23.

Officials from other universities in the state said they have not yet finalized plans for next semester. Decisions will be announced in the coming weeks.

The state Health Department said Monday that Mississippi, with a population of about 3 million, has reported more than 100,000 cases and at least 3,000 deaths from COVID-19 as of Sunday evening. That’s an increase of 215 confirmed cases and zero deaths from numbers reported the day before.