

Branch Circular: Covid-19 Update #2

This is the second weekly Manchester UNISON branch circular to update members on some of the issues which have arisen this week.

Developments in different employers and services will be detailed as they develop and relevant advice and information will be included as and when it becomes available.

The Branch will continue to do our best to support members through this difficult period.

Please let your steward or Branch Officer know if you need any advice or assistance or contact the branch directly by telephone on **0161 254 7500** or by emailing unison@manchester.gov.uk.

In addition to these Branch wide updates the Branch will contact members in specific areas on matters that specifically relate to their particular service.

Evelyn Doyle
Manchester UNISON Branch Secretary

SCHOOLS

Updated Schools Health & Safety FAQs - COVID-19

We have produced additional FAQs under the health & safety section for school staff in England and Wales relating to COVID-19. They cover:

- What your school **MUST** do to keep staff safe
- What else UNISON recommends schools should be doing to keep staff safe, including guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- What members can do personally to keep themselves as safe as possible
- How schools can reduce physical contact between children
- What to do if staff have concerns about health and safety measures at their school
- What to do if someone develops symptoms of COVID-19 at school

The updated FAQs [can be found on our branch website](#) and are also available at the bottom of the [main schools advice page](#), and as a [PDF](#) to download.

Easter opening

Some schools will be opening over the Easter holidays to look after the children of critical workers. If staff on 'term time only' contracts are asked to work during this period, this is outside their normal

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contracted hours and UNISON advice is that they should be paid for this work. In addition, any staff required to work on Easter Monday or Good Friday should be paid the relevant premium for working on a public holiday.

Furlough scheme

We are aware that some education employers are seeking to use the government's Job Retention Scheme that allows employers to 'furlough' workers. Under this scheme, the employer will continue to pay staff, but then be able to reclaim 80% of the cost from the government. Whilst this scheme is open to all employers, government guidance is clear that it does not expect public sector bodies to use this scheme as they continue to receive public funding. This would include schools. We are aware that there are some staff working in schools and early years who rely on external funding to pay their wages, e.g. some breakfast club and after school workers.

We have asked all the UK governments for urgent clarification on whether some or all workers in education will be covered by the scheme. At this time, the government are advising education employers to hold off from applying for the scheme.

However, UNISON is aware that some employers are having funding difficulties and are already saying they wish to apply the scheme. Branches are advised that, if due to funding difficulties, the alternative to furloughing is redundancy, then they should negotiate to save workers' jobs and protect their pay.

For more general information on the Job Retention Scheme, see UNISON's Q&As and bargaining guide on our [webpages](#).

Education Select Committee inquiry (England)

The Education Select Committee has launched an [inquiry](#) into the impact of COVID-19 on education and children's services. The Committee is also calling on the Department of Education to include school staff as a priority group for testing COVID-19 as more tests become available, and to issue further guidance for schools on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If you have any evidence from schools on these or other issues that we could submit in a response to their enquiry, please email education@unison.co.uk.

We will be sending this information out to branches early next week but please feel free to forward on to your contacts in the meantime.

Thanks again for all you are doing and please keep us updated of further questions and clarifications we can take to the DfE.

Our Branch schools team are totally committed to providing you with support during these unprecedented times.

Cath Baggaley – c.baggaley@manchester.gov.uk

Jane Wilcox – j.wilcox@manchester.gov.uk

Rena Wood – r.wood@manchester.gov.uk



0161 254 7500



unison@manchester.gov.uk



www.unisonmanchester.org

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

There are on going discussions between UNISON and senior management as we still have some real concerns with what services the Directorate regard as “critical”.

Negotiations will carry on in the following days and UNISON will continue to put first the health and safety of our members and the general public.

Any queries please contact **Pete Banks** - p.banks@manchester.gov.uk

CORPORATE CORE

There is no update for Corporate Core this week.

Any queries please contact **Jane Slater** - j.slater@manchester.gov.uk

ADULT SERVICES

Work continues across all parts of Adults Services to keep members safe while keeping our services running, these are unprecedented times and will take unprecedented efforts but we'll get through it as long as we can work together.

UNISON is continuing to push for the best possible Public Health advice to be followed and thank you to every member who has been in touch with me so that we can negotiate the best agreements with management.

Like all of my UNISON comrades, I am in daily contact with both management and HR to make your concerns heard so please continue your great work and keep an eye on all of our sources of information across the branch website, Facebook page and Twitter account.

Our vital work in Local Government is being recognised by the wider public and we will continue to campaign to get your work acknowledged by the National Government too.

Any queries please contact **Carl Greatbatch** - c.greatbatch@manchester.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

There is no update for Children's Services this week.

Any queries should be referred to **Eddy Redmond** Assistant Branch Secretary.

Email: e.redmond@manchester.gov.uk

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PRIVATE EMPLOYERS

Manchester Airport

Passenger traffic has dwindled to almost nil. Only one terminal has been left open for the few flights that are taking place. This scenario is likely to be the case for many months to come and this situation will be worrying for all airport staff.

Talks between Manchester Airport Group (including Manchester, Stansted and East Midlands airports) and the joint trade unions are ongoing. It may be that the Branch may need to consult quickly with members on any proposals and it is not practical to do that by post.

The Branch has written to all Manchester Airport members for whom the Branch do not hold an email for asking for one to be provided as soon as possible to ensure their views are taken into account in any imminent ballot or membership consultation.

However the same is true for all Manchester UNISON members so if you are in touch with members who are not receiving updates and emails from the Branch please urge them to contact the Branch to provide their full name and address together with their email address either by emailing those details to unison@manchester.gov.uk or calling the Branch on **0161 254 7500**.

LABOUR LINK

Labour Leadership Elected

Saturday saw the election of Keir Starmer as the new Labour Party Leader and Angela Rayner (a former Care Worker and Convenor of North West UNISON) as the new deputy Leader.

In his first speech as Leader Keir Starmer pledged to put public service workers at the heart of any future Labour Government agenda -

'But when we do get through this we cannot go back to business as usual. This virus has exposed the fragility of our society. It's lifted a curtain. Too many will have given too much. Some of us will have lost too much. We know in our hearts, things are going to have to change.

Taken for granted. We can see so clearly now who the key workers really are.

When we get through this it'll be because of our NHS staff, our care workers, our ambulance drivers, our emergency services, our cleaners, our porters.

It will be because of the hard work and bravery of every key worker as they took on this virus and kept our country going.

For too long they've been taken for granted and poorly paid. They were last and now they should be first.

In their courage and their sacrifice and their bravery, we can see a better future. This crisis has brought out the resilience and human spirit in all of us.'

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However members may have voted in the Leadership election, UNISON Labour Link will get behind the newly elected leadership and work to ensure a Labour Government is put in power as soon as possible for all our futures.

BRANCH TWEETS THIS WEEK

We often share updates on our [branch twitter feed](#) and each week in this section, we will include a roundup of our branch tweets, along with any relevant links you can follow for more information.

31 March 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

As our members live across all of the authorities of Greater Manchester, here are the contact details for #COVID19 helplines and hubs across our whole area. <https://t.co/Epw7kOaSNr>

31 March 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

We have 1000s of members working as Support Staff in Manchester Schools and each and every one of them deserves the same recognition for their vitally important work in keeping schools open for key workers' children <https://t.co/DfMHhnlJ7>

01 April 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#) (refer to **Further Information** section for full list of helplines)

If remaining isolated is affecting your mental health, or you are concerned about a loved one who might be suffering themselves then have a look at this list of helplines and support groups that may be able to help #StayHomeStaySafe <https://t.co/UJCZ6CHc2B>

01 April 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

If you are experiencing a shortage of PPE in your workplace during the #COVID19 pandemic then please consider sharing your story with us here so #UNISON can raise this with the Government on your behalf <https://t.co/I5VL0zx3sK> #GetUsPPE #PPEForAll

02 April 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

Join us at 8pm tonight as we #clapforourcarers to show them how much we value and appreciate all the hard work they are doing to keep us safe and the country running. These people are risking their lives every day and the Government MUST do more to ensure #PPEForAll

02 April 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

Want to show your appreciation to all the key workers keeping us safe and provided for? [@labourunionsuk](#) is putting together an online gallery of thanks and to take part please send a selfie holding up a written THANK YOU sign to campaigns@labourunions.org.uk #KeyWorkerHeroes

03 April 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

While we are following the #StayHomeStaySafe policy to help efforts in managing #COVID19 it's important we #StayActive. We know that regular exercise benefits physical and mental health so why not try some of these easy exercises at home <https://t.co/UHMCESTXBB>

03 April 2020 - [Link to Tweet](#)

The latest Covid-10 FAQs for school staff working in England and Wales are now available to read on our branch website [@UNISONinSchools](#) #COVID19 <https://t.co/DDlgoTJitS>

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Due to a technical issue with our phones last week, we were temporarily unable to answer calls. This issue has now been resolved and members are able to contact us again via phone, as well as by any of the other methods listed below.

Manchester UNISON Contact Information

Telephone Number: **0161 254 7500**

Email Address: unison@manchester.gov.uk

Branch Website: www.unisonmanchester.gov.uk

Twitter Feed: twitter.com/UnisonMcr

UNISONdirect

The UNISONdirect call centre will be closed from 5pm on 24 March 2020. There are a limited number of staff working from home and they will continue to help members through UNISON's online enquiries form <http://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/online-enquiries>

When members phone UNISONDirect, the greeting message will sign post them to the UNISON website for branch and region information. They will also be directed to UNISON's coronavirus webpage <https://www.unison.org.uk/coronavirus-rights-work/> that is updated regularly.

Social Media

The social media accounts below are worth following for more information.

[@UnisonMcr](https://twitter.com/UnisonMcr) - our branch twitter account which will have regular updates during the crisis

[@manchesterheal1](https://twitter.com/manchesterheal1) - regular updates for all UNISON health workers in Manchester

[@NorthWestUNISON](https://twitter.com/NorthWestUNISON) - official twitter account of the North West Region of UNISON

[@unisontheunion](https://twitter.com/unisontheunion) - official twitter account for the national union

Mental Health Helplines

If remaining isolated is affecting your mental health, or you are concerned about a loved one who might be suffering themselves then have a look at this list of helplines and support groups that may be able to help.

Anxiety UK

Charity providing support if you have been diagnosed with an anxiety condition.

Phone: 03444 775 774 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 10pm; Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 8pm)

Website: www.anxietyuk.org.uk

Bipolar UK

A charity helping people living with manic depression or bipolar disorder.

Website: www.bipolaruk.org.uk

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CALM

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably, for men aged 15 to 35.

Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)

Website: www.thecalmzone.net

Men's Health Forum

24/7 stress support for men by text, chat and email.

Website: www.menshealthforum.org.uk

Mental Health Foundation

Provides information and support for anyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

Website: www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Mind

Promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.

Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

Website: www.mind.org.uk

No Panic

Voluntary charity offering support for sufferers of panic attacks and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Offers a course to help overcome your phobia or OCD.

Phone: 0844 967 4848 (daily, 10am to 10pm). Calls cost 5p per minute plus your phone provider's Access Charge

Website: www.nopanic.org.uk

OCD Action

Support for people with OCD. Includes information on treatment and online resources.

Phone: 0845 390 6232 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm). Calls cost 5p per minute plus your phone provider's Access Charge

Website: www.ocdaction.org.uk

OCD UK

A charity run by people with OCD, for people with OCD. Includes facts, news and treatments.

Phone: 0333 212 7890 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Website: www.ocduk.org

PAPYRUS

Young suicide prevention society.

Phone: HOPELINEUK 0800 068 4141 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 10pm, and 2pm to 10pm on weekends and bank holidays) / Website: www.papyrus-uk.org

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Rethink Mental Illness

Support and advice for people living with mental illness.
Phone: 0300 5000 927 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)
Website: www.rethink.org

Samaritans

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.
Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)
Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

SANE

Emotional support, information and guidance for people affected by mental illness, their families and carers.
SANEline: 0300 304 7000 (daily, 4.30pm to 10.30pm)
Textcare: comfort and care via text message, sent when the person needs it most: www.sane.org.uk/textcare
Peer support forum: www.sane.org.uk/supportforum
Website: www.sane.org.uk/support

YoungMinds

Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals.
Phone: Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)
Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

Abuse (child, sexual, domestic violence)

NSPCC

Children's charity dedicated to ending child abuse and child cruelty.
Phone: 0800 1111 for Childline for children (24-hour helpline) / 0808 800 5000 for adults concerned about a child (24-hour helpline)
Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Refuge

Advice on dealing with domestic violence.
Phone: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline) / Website: www.refuge.org.uk

Addiction (drugs, alcohol, gambling)

Alcoholics Anonymous

Phone: 0800 917 7650 (24-hour helpline) / Website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

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National Gambling Helpline

Phone: 0808 8020 133 (daily, 8am to midnight)

Website: www.begambleaware.org

Narcotics Anonymous

Phone: 0300 999 1212 (daily, 10am to midnight)

Website: www.ukna.org

Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Society

Provides information on dementia, including factsheets and helplines.

Phone: 0333 150 3456 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and 10am to 4pm on weekends)

Website: www.alzheimers.org.uk

Bereavement

Cruse Bereavement Care

Phone: 0808 808 1677 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Website: www.cruse.org.uk

Crime victims

Rape Crisis

To find your local services phone: 0808 802 9999 (daily, 12pm to 2.30pm and 7pm to 9.30pm)

Website: www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Victim Support

Phone: 0808 168 9111 (24-hour helpline)

Website: www.victimsupport.org

Eating disorders

Beat

Phone: 0808 801 0677 (adults) or 0808 801 0711 (for under-18s)

Website: www.b-eat.co.uk

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Learning disabilities

Mencap

Charity working with people with a learning disability, their families and carers.

Phone: 0808 808 1111 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Website: www.mencap.org.uk

Parenting

Family Lives

Advice on all aspects of parenting, including dealing with bullying.

Phone: 0808 800 2222 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm)

Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Relationships

Relate

The UK's largest provider of relationship support.

Website: www.relate.org.uk

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RECOMMENDED PPE NHS GUIDANCE

Unsuspected COVID-19 PPE General Area



Hand hygiene

Wash your hands with non-antimicrobial liquid soap and water if:

- visibly soiled or dirty;
- caring for a patient with a suspected or known gastro-intestinal infection e.g. norovirus or a spore forming organism i.e. *C.difficile*
- immediately after removal of PPE.

In all other circumstances alcohol based hand rub can be used as an alternative to hand washing with liquid soap and water.

Aprons must be:

- worn to protect uniform or clothes when contamination is anticipated/likely e.g. when undertaking direct care e.g. assisted wash or aseptic/clean task
- changed between patients and/or following completion of a procedure or task

Remember to perform hand hygiene following removal/disposal of PPE.



Eye Protection / Visor*

*self assessment of risk for eye protection session or single use

Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask

*self assessment of risk for mask session or single use

Gloves must be:

- worn when exposure to blood and/or other body fluids is anticipated/likely e.g. toileting or taking blood;
- changed immediately after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure or task;
- changed if a perforation or puncture is suspected;
- appropriate for use, fit for purpose and well-fitting.

Please refer to the full UK COVID-19 guidance for Infection Prevention and Control on the HPS COVID-19 web page

April 2020 poster 1 Green precautions general area V1

Unsuspected COVID-19 PPE in Social/Community/Residential



Hand hygiene

Wash your hands with non-antimicrobial liquid soap and water if:

- visibly soiled or dirty;
- caring for an individual with a suspected or known gastro-intestinal infection e.g. norovirus or a spore forming organism i.e. *C.difficile*
- immediately after removal of PPE.

In all other circumstances alcohol based hand rub can be used as an alternative to hand washing with liquid soap and water.

Aprons must be:

- worn to protect uniform or clothes when contamination is anticipated/likely e.g. when undertaking direct care e.g. assisted wash or aseptic/clean task
- changed between individuals and/or following completion of a procedure or task.

Remember to perform hand hygiene following removal/disposal of PPE.



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Please refer to the full UK COVID-19 guidance for Infection Prevention and Control on the HPS COVID-19 web page

April 2020 poster 1 Community Standard v1 April 20

Suspected/confirmed COVID-19 PPE General Area



General contact with COVID-19 case

Aerosol Generating Procedures

FOR ALL HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SETTINGS

Full Face Shield / Eye Protection can be single or sessional use

Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask can be single or sessional use

Gloves - single use

Disposable Apron - single use

Please refer to the full UK COVID-19 guidance for Infection Prevention and Control on the HPS COVID-19 web page

Full Face Shield / Eye Protection can be single or sessional use*

* If wearing valved FFP mask full face shield/visor should be worn.

FFP Face Mask can be single or sessional use

Gloves - single use

Long Sleeved Fluid Repellent Gown can be single or sessional use

Illustration by James Fox Creative
www.jamesfoxcreative.co.uk / @MxJamesonFox

Suspected COVID-19 April 20 V1.1

Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 PPE for High Risk Acute Care Area



Aerosol Generating Procedures

Please refer to the full UK COVID-19 guidance for Infection Prevention and Control on the HPS COVID-19 web page

Full Face Shield / Eye Protection sessional use*

* If wearing valved FFP mask full face shield/visor should be worn.

FFP Face Mask sessional use

Gloves - single use

Long Sleeved Fluid Repellent Gown sessional use

Remember to perform hand hygiene following removal/disposal of PPE.

Suspected COVID-19 High Risk April 20 V1