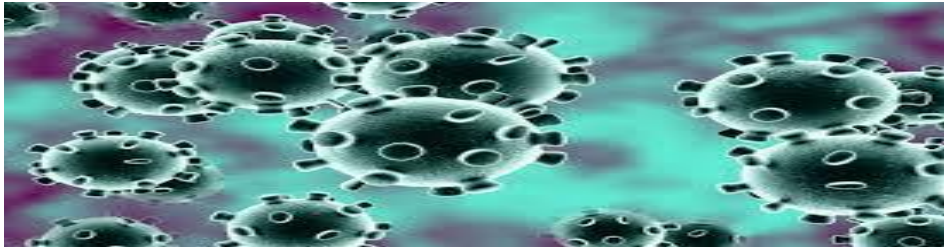




Coronavirus: who to contact for advice



As you know we are currently in unprecedented times due to the outbreak of Coronavirus and there will be consequences for our working lives in the short term. This is a difficult and worrying time for everyone but please be assured that your Unison Branch is still working hard to provide you with up to date advice and guidance to keep you safe.

Your Unison Branch office is not accepting visitors at this present time. However, we are still working around the clock to support you, and are in regular discussions with MFT and the NHS regionally and nationally to resolve ongoing concerns. You can reach us via a staffed telephone service (please leave a message if we cannot pick up straight away or you are calling out of hours), and also via our website at www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk/getsupport So, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please call 0161 291 5212, leave a clear message with your name and contact details and we will arrange for a representative to speak with you.

Helpful Resources:

Resources are also available at the following websites which are updated daily:

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/staff-terms-and-conditions>

<https://unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk/>

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk

Car Parking Charges: SUSPENDED

Due to pressure from the trade unions from 1st April 2020, car parking charges for staff, patients and visitors across all MFT hospital sites are suspended until further notice. Salary deductions for car parking will be suspended through Payroll and those who have paid in advance for parking will automatically be given a three month exemption, extending your current car parking permit expiry date by three months.

Should anyone leave the Trust during this period, please inform the Car Parking Office as normal and refunds will be applied appropriately as per Trust Policy. Colleagues are able to utilise any of our site car parks, including the multi-storeys on any level. We do ask that parking conditions for Blue Badge spaces and Renal Bays are still adhered to for those who require these spaces.

Message for all members who work for MFT

Manchester University Foundation Trust (MFT) is sending Global Communications to all staff twice daily in an effort to provide key messages and up-to-date official guidance from both the Trust and Government to support and protect you at work. This includes advice, and your rights, if you have to self isolate, pay while you are off work, PPE, working from home and many more issues. Please check your Trust emails regularly as advice is changing and being updated regularly.

The dedicated Coronavirus section of the Intranet contains all previous internal MFT updates.

Help UNISON support you - tell us how things are going where you are

In response to the current crisis, UNISON is in regular discussions with NHS England and MFT to reach agreements around supportive working arrangements for all of our members.

Our branch is still working hard to support members, but as we aren't able to access wards and departments as regularly or easily as usual, we want to make sure we can help with any issues you are experiencing locally.

In order for us to make sure you have the help you need and that we tackle any issues or difficulties early and supportively with your employer, we have set up an online portal where you can tell us how things are going where you are, any issues you're facing, and any questions you have so that we can support you.

Everything you tell us is confidential and we won't use your name when reporting and tackling issues. You can also request a call back within 24 hours from a representative, who can provide further advice.

Help us to help you. You can let us know how things are going online here:

www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk/covid19survey



In these difficult and uncertain times and while many of our members are having to stay at home to protect themselves due to underlying medical conditions, or in self isolation to protect their families, we acknowledge that this may create financial pressure due to additional expense or loss of earnings

Should you need help, your first point of call should be your Branch Welfare Officers. They can be contacted via 0161 291 5212.

If you find yourself with mounting debts due to loss of earnings in this current crisis, please consider speaking to our debt management partners PayPlan on 0800 389 3302. The number should identify the caller as a Unison member but please advise the agent you are with Unison as our members get the support free of charge

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk

Branch Campaigning



As you know we are currently in unprecedented times due to the outbreak of Coronavirus and its consequences for our working lives in the short term. In light of this, **we have taken the decision to temporarily pause and suspend our Healthcare Assistant campaign.**

Unfortunately, due to current circumstances, it would not be viable or appropriate for us to launch or evidence the diary at this time as we had planned. The information we collect from staff now would not reflect normal duties in a meaningful way which would allow us to identify where people may be on the wrong pay band and gather necessary evidence.

Furthermore, much of our normal negotiating and bargaining with the Trust will be affected as we dedicate our time to addressing this crisis in discussions regarding the workforce challenges of the pandemic so it will not be possible to address these issues realistically until the crisis has passed.

UNISON is determined, once things return to normal, to redouble our efforts on this campaign. We will be writing to the Trust next week to let them know and to give assurances that we will request further discussions with them once COVID-19 is over.

Wendy Guest, Branch Secretary

Private Contractors, NHSP and Bank Staff:

Do you work for a private contractor in MFT? Make sure you're being treated fairly.....

In these unprecedented times, UNISON has been in discussions with NHS England, the Department of Health and local NHS Trusts in order to ensure staff receive appropriate support if they are required to self isolate, or become ill, during the current period.

Agreement has been reached that all staff, including staff working for private contractors working within the NHS and NHSP and bank staff, should receive full pay for any period of COVID-19 related absence, including if the staff member is required to self isolate in line with Public Health England Guidance.

This means that every member of staff providing services at MFT, whoever they work for, should receive full pay for any such absences, including any enhancements (such as unsocial hours payments) – worked out as an average of what the staff member received over the previous 3 months.

Staff working for the NHSP bank should also receive payment for any shifts they are unable to work, with special leave pay for any recommended period of self isolation. You should receive the normal shift payment for any pre-booked shifts during any period of self isolation or sickness with COVID-19.

If you're a UNISON member working for a private contractor at MFT and don't think arrangements are in place to ensure you receive full pay during a period of absence, contact the branch and let us know, so that we can help resolve this.

Ask a colleague
to join UNISON today



Join online at
joinunison.org



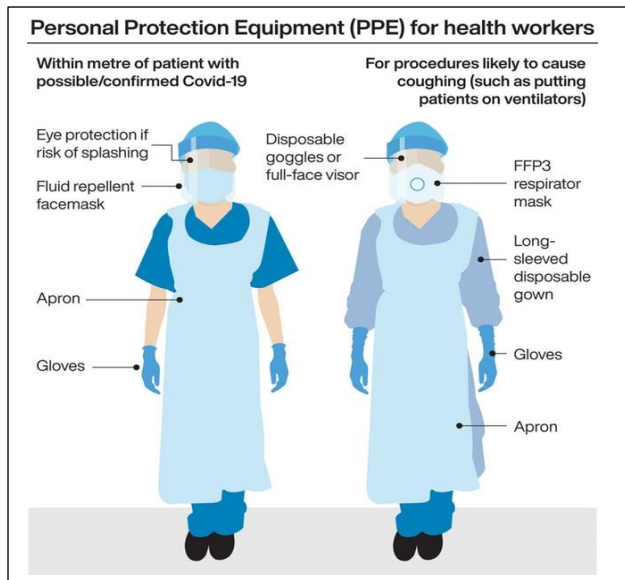
Call us on
0800 171 2193



Ask your UNISON rep
for an application form

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk



**PPE – Keep safe,
speak to your
union!**

UNISON has been engaged in discussions regarding the availability of correct PPE on wards and departments in order to keep staff safe and limit COVID-19 infection.

The NHS supply chain is currently delivering record stocks of PPE to NHS trusts nationwide, but we understand that in some areas shortages have been reported. In a small number of areas within MFT, UNISON has received reports of staff being asked to share FFP3 masks between them, which we immediately addressed with the Trust.

We have been advised in those areas that additional stocks have now been delivered and that staff are no longer being requested to share masks. However, if there is a shortage of PPE or equipment in your department, please take the following steps so that we can work together to keep everyone safe:

- Ensure you are familiar with the most up to date PPE guidance, which should be available from your manager, so that you know which PPE should be worn or used in which situation
- Speak to your manager immediately to flag the issue, ask for confirmation that the issue has been escalated and complete a health and safety incident report if stocks are unavailable
- **DO NOT HESITATE** to contact UNISON via the branch telephone number (0161 291 5212) if stocks aren't replenished, you have any concerns or if you receive an instruction which you believe is unsafe, such as a direction to share masks. Leave a message with your contact details if you reach an answerphone, as messages are being regularly monitored and retrieved

Clear guidance has been issued to departments regarding ordering PPE and replenishing stock, and we are working closely with the Trust and the NHS regionally and nationally to resolve any ongoing issues and concerns

Get in touch:

We can help

Get in touch with the Branch Office or your local steward if you have any concerns at work

Keep us updated

Don't forget to update your contact details if you change address at work or home by contacting the Branch Office or calling UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857

Follow us on Twitter @manchesterhealthworkers-UNISON

Tel: 0161 291 5212

Website: www.unisonmanchesterhealth.org.uk