



Pennine Acute Health Branch

Spring Newsletter 2020

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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 hard to support you, and are in regular discussions with Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and the NHS regionally and nationally to resolve ongoing concerns. You can reach us via phone or e-mail. So, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please call 07375 88 14 38 calls will be taken during office hours and you can leave a message at other times. You can also email unisonpennine@gmail.com.

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>

Private Contractors, NHSP and Bank Staff:

Do you work for a private contractor in PAHT? 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 PAHT, 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 PAHT 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.

UNISON There For You:



supporting UNISON members
when life gets tough

UNISON There for You, is your national charity, supporting members in times of need. We offer a unique confidential advice and support service just for UNISON Members and their dependants. Whether it's just a chat and a listening ear, advice or more concrete help you're seeking, we may be able to help.

The charity offers financial assistance, debt advice, and support and sign posting information to other partners where required.

You can contact UNISON There For You 020 7121 5620. or email them on thereforyou@UNISON.co.uk.

Childcare for Key Workers

Schools and childcare providers are being asked by the government to remain open to provide care for a limited number of children. This includes key workers in the health sector, comprising of but not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health staff.

If you are unsure which schools or childcare providers are still open you should contact your local council. They should be able to advise which childcare providers and schools remain open.

ENGIE Contract Over - Security Staff Back in House

UNISON has successfully negotiated with ENGIE and Pennine Acute Hospital NHS Trust (PAHT) to bring security staff back in house. The security staff across all PAHT sites are to be brought in house on the 1st June.

Security Staff who protect patients and staff in often high risk situations are employed by the private firm ENGIE on minimum wage, with no enhancements, and on zero hour contracts. This is unacceptable and UNISON are fighting on their behalf to improve their terms and conditions. A two month consultation period is now underway and we will be working alongside our members to achieve the best possible outcome. ENGIE staff are entitled to full pay for any Covid-19 related absences, including illness and self isolation. Periods of enforced self isolation will not count towards triggers in the sickness absence policy.

If you are a member of security staff and want to support the campaign you can join UNISON at <http://join.unison.org.uk/>. If you wish to get involved please contact Pennine Acute Branch either through email at unisonpennine@gmail.com or on the phone 07375 88 14 38.

**JOIN A
FIGHTING
UNION
JOIN
UNISON**

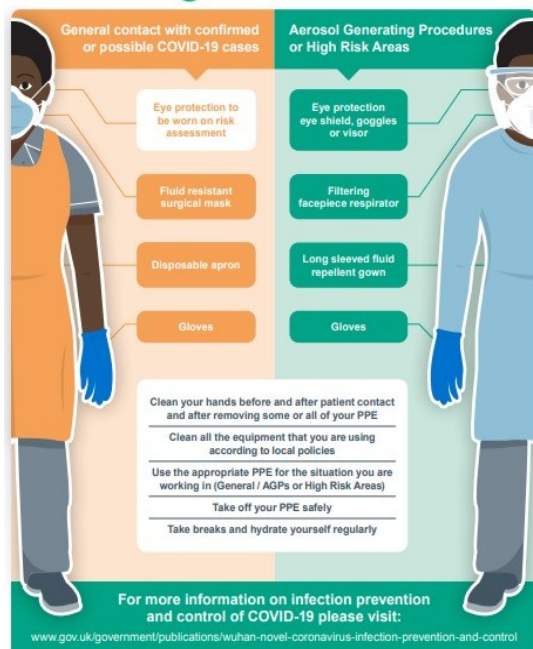


Covid-19 and Self Isolation

There are two main reasons you will need to self isolate either because you have symptoms of Covid-19 or a member of your household has symptoms. If you are suffering from the symptoms of Covid-19 and need to self isolate this will be treated as sickness absence. If you are self isolating as members of your household have symptoms of Covid-19 you will be put on medical suspension. During medical suspension you will receive full pay.

Self isolation be it sickness absence or medical suspension will not count negatively towards your attendance record. It will also not count towards trigger points within the trusts absence policies. Your absence will be to protect yourself, staff and patients and will not be held against you.

A visual guide to safe PPE



Personnel Protective Equipment—Keep Safe

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. 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
- Some PPE may show as being out-of-date, when in fact they have a much longer shelf-life. All supplies should be checked and any supplies that are sub-standard should have been destroyed. If in doubt consult your management or contact your UNISON branch.
- DO NOT HESITATE to contact UNISON via the branch telephone number (07375 88 14 38) 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.

We are working closely with the Trust and the NHS regionally and nationally to resolve any ongoing issues and concerns. The Public Health England (PHE) PPE guidance can change, you can find the latest information at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/guidance-supply-use-of-ppe/>

Contact your Branch:

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