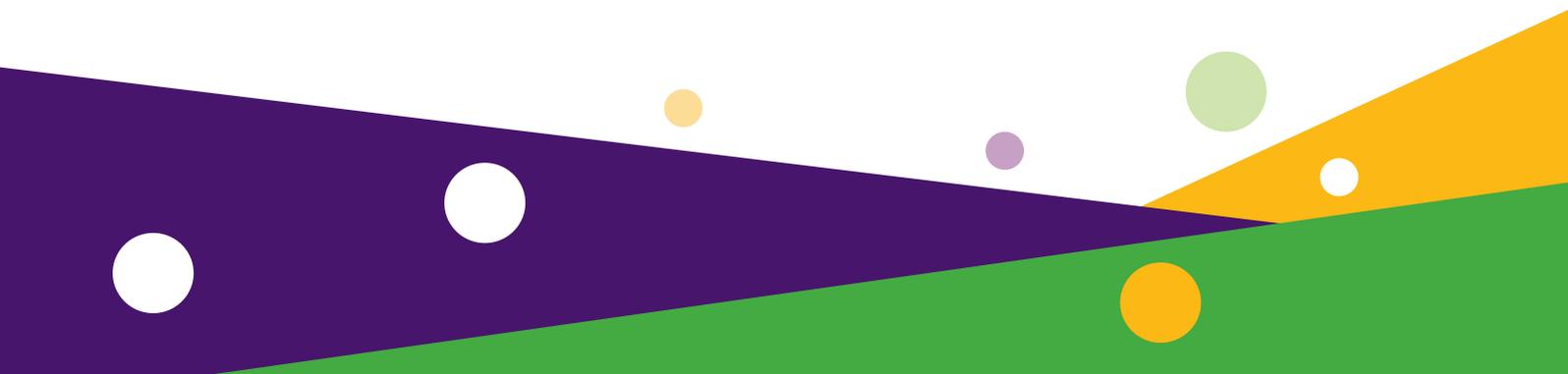


January 2021



COVID-19 UPDATE





JEANETTE LLOYD
*is the Derbyshire UNISON
branch secretary*

jeanette.lloyd@unisondc.co.uk
07921 474701

**COVID-19 advice for
special schools and
colleges and
alternative education
settings**

**COVID-19 advice for
early years**

Dear colleagues

Well – here we are again. As I write, the number of new daily confirmed cases of coronavirus in the UK has topped 60,000 for the first time since the pandemic started, hospitals are at breaking point and we are entering the third national lockdown.

Over the course of the last nine months or so, Derbyshire UNISON has issued a number of guides and other information to all members, or specific groups. Most of these are still available on our website derbyshireunison.com. We're not going to repeat everything; most members are well aware of the major issues. This shorter guide points members to where they can look for answers, including contact details for the relevant UNISON representative.

Social care and schools

But it would be remiss of me not to use this opportunity to thank members, including the many of you who have joined in the last few months, for your work. Our social care members, particularly those working in residential care homes for older people have had to work through everything, with little or no PPE at first and watch the people they care for die in large numbers. And the vast majority if these get paid far less than already underpaid NHS colleagues.

In the last few days, our schools members, in tandem with teachers, have demonstrated their commitment to safety and stopping the further spread of the pandemic by forcing the government into another humiliating U-turn. Make no mistake, all the scientific information was available to Boris Johnson on Sunday when he was telling parents to send their children to school. It didn't suddenly materialise on Monday!

Members stepping forward

In loads of other work functions, too, we have assisted members to stand up for themselves. Workers who, a year ago, wouldn't speak out for fear of 'rocking the boat' have been challenging CEOs and senior managers. Some of those are now coming forward to get more involved in UNISON, to share their enlightening experiences with others. We want more to do that.

Of course, the lockdown doesn't mean everything is sorted. There are many unanswered issues. The rules on travelling to work are too loose in our opinion; we think only essential work needs to be carried out at work and we are not at all happy that members whose job

entails working in people's homes are being asked to continue. It is ridiculous that libraries remain open too.

What thought has been given this time to parents struggling to work full-time from home and needing to help deliver education for their children? What is being done to help families without internet access or too few laptops in their house?

Nurseries and early years settings

There is still an outstanding issue about nurseries and early years settings being excluded from the education shutdown. I have already been involved with UNISON's national and regional officials to seek to get that, firstly clarified, and then changed if necessary.

People who know me are aware I'm not one to get on my soap box and have a rant; I leave that to others. My involvement in UNISON over many years has been to ensure workers get treated fairly and that includes pay!

But it annoys me when I read that chief executive pay is about 120 times that of the typical UK worker or, in other words, by 5:30pm on Wednesday, 6th January, they will already have overtaken the wage full time workers will get for the whole of 2021!

It annoys me that at a time when almost 2 million have died in a pandemic, when millions more are losing their jobs and livelihoods, that Jeff Bezos of Amazon saw his personal wealth increase in 2020 from \$70bn to \$185bn.

It annoys me that every government announcement on the pandemic is made with private profits uppermost in their minds and safety and ordinary folk like you and me well down the list. Somewhere, we have it incredibly wrong!

All this unfairness makes me believe even more that trade unions and their members have a crucial role to play in building a better world. If you're like me, why not join me?! Give me a call and we can have a chat about anything you want!

Jeanette

FOLLOW THE LINKS...

[Do I need to have the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

[Furlough, Job Retention Scheme \(JRS\) and redundancy](#)

[What help is available if I am struggling financially?](#)

[What if childcare is a problem?](#)

[If you are working from home](#)

[If you are continuing to work in your regular workplace](#)

[What if I don't feel my workplace is safe?](#)

[Risks for Black workers](#)

[Social distancing in the workplace](#)

[Do I need to cover my face in the workplace?](#)

[Do I need Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)?](#)

[How does coronavirus affect my entitlement to carry over leave to next year?](#)

[Do I have to self-isolate on my return from a trip abroad?](#)

[If you think you or someone you live with has coronavirus](#)

[What should my employer do if any staff test positive for COVID-19?](#)

[Testing](#)

[If you are pregnant](#)

[If you are disabled, over 70 or have an underlying health condition](#)

[How is my pension affected by COVID-19?](#)

[Is coronavirus affecting your mental health?](#)

[Are you experiencing ongoing symptoms of COVID-19?](#)

This is our team of senior UNISON officers, convenors and staff in the front line. You can contact them directly or via the main branch contacts of 01629 582266 and branch@unisondc.co.uk

Derbyshire UNISON Office

01629 582266

branch@unisondc.co.uk

Although the actual branch office has been closed since March 2020 and will remain closed for the foreseeable future, the main telephone number has been re-routed to the branch secretary, **Jeanette Lloyd**, for the whole of that time. Indeed you may well be one of the hundreds of members she has spoken to over the last year!

If you don't know who to speak to from looking at this list of our team, contact the main number and Jeanette will be able to direct you or possibly answer your query herself. If you email, our support staff will immediately forward it to the relevant rep.



Bolsover District Council

KEV SHILLITTO

kevin.shillitto@bolsover.gov.uk



**All other councils
All non-council social care / education
All private companies
Charities
FE colleges
Prisons**

DAVE GORTON

dave.gorton@unisondc.co.uk

07921 474704



High Peak Borough Council

GARETH EYRES

gareth.eyres@highpeak.gov.uk



JOANNE COOPER

joanne.cooper@peakdistrict.gov.uk



Derbyshire County Council

Schools



STEVE SHERRATT
steve.sherratt@unisondc.co.uk
07764 775315



CORINNE COWARD
corinne.coward@unisondc.co.uk
07921 474700

Adult social care and public health

DANNY TREACY
danny.treacy@unisondc.co.uk
07756 416672

Children's services



NEIL PLOUGHMAN
neil.ploughman@unisondc.co.uk
07921 474708



LESLEY WHETTON
lesley.whetton@unisondc.co.uk
07921 474705



Commissioning, communities and policy / Environment, transport and economy



JAYNE BARRY
jayne.barry@unisondc.co.uk
07740 807781



JOHN COWINGS
john.cowings@unisondc.co.uk
07793 369549

Academy schools

If you are not already in touch with a rep, ring or email the branch office (see Page 4) and we will be able to advise you who to contact.



■ Covid-19

For a complete list of FAQs by country and sector, start at unison.org.uk/coronavirus-rights-work

For other guides and advice, visit derbyshireunison.com where you can access material from the Coronavirus tab or guides for pregnant women and for disabled and/or Black members via the scrolling information on the home page.

■ Contracts of employment, working hours and redundancy

Read our guides and factsheets at derbyshireunison.com via the Get Help tab. You can also calculate the redundancy pay you're entitled to at gov.uk/calculate-your-redundancy-pay

■ Disciplinary Guides

Read our useful guides on what to do and expect if you have been suspended or called to an investigation meeting or disciplinary hearing. You can access these from derbyshireunison.com via the scrolling information on the home page.

Online resources and where to find them

■ Discrimination

Read our factsheet at derbyshireunison.com via the Get Help tab.

■ Health, safety & wellbeing

There are multiple UNISON resources dealing with safety issues - from Manual Handling to Stress - available at unison.org.uk/get-help/knowledge/health-and-safety

■ Maternity

You can read or download Pregnancy - Your Rights at Work and see other FAQs about maternity leave at unison.org.uk/get-help/knowledge/leave/maternity-leave

■ There for You (UNISON Welfare)

If you're in financial difficulties, we may be able to assist directly or point you in the right direction. Visit unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you

