



UCU PRISON EDUCATORS

unlocking futures

UCU Prison Education Emergency
All Members Meeting

7th January 2021 6.00pm

Please do not log off.

**Please turn off your cameras and microphones
We are waiting for more members to join.
Please listen for further announcements.**

Emergency Meeting Agenda



1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Current situation
 - a. YCS Estate
 - b. Adult Estate
3. Mark Fairhurst, Chair POA
4. Template Legal Letters for individual members with Covid-19 Safety Concerns
5. Employers' responses to UCU Demands
6. Collectivising & Organising Issues
7. Janet Farrar, UCU President Elect
8. Next Steps



Template Legal Letters

- We have produced a series of template legal letters for use by members who reasonably believe that a request or demand that they return to on site working would place them in serious danger from Covid-19, in order to raise their concerns directly with their manager.
- The letters are drafted for use by members in different circumstances; the relevant template will need to be tailored to the circumstances of an individual member and branches may need to support members to assist them in completing their letter.

UCU Demands for Education Providers



We are requesting therefore that providers, fully supported by HMPPS put the following arrangements in place to protect their staff and continue to ensure that prisoners receive education safely.

- no face-to-face teaching in the adult estate
- immediate joint review of face to face teaching in YCS based upon increased reports of violence and breaches of covid risk assessments
- any further attendance on site should be on a **voluntary basis** to support in-cell learning
- where education staff are required/permitted on site, skeleton staffing is observed (max 4-8).
- strict adherence to bubble rotas
- wearing of face masks to be mandatory
- *essential duties only that are necessary to meet operational requirements with any work that can be produced off site being carried out off site
- education staff should not attend where a high standard of cleaning is not taking place
- no 'wing work'
- immediate review of risk assessments and cleaning regimes to include FFP2 masks worn in classrooms (in YCS estate) with NDIR monitors in use
- copies of all investigation reports of near misses and incidents of Covid cases provided to UCU branch officers on a daily basis

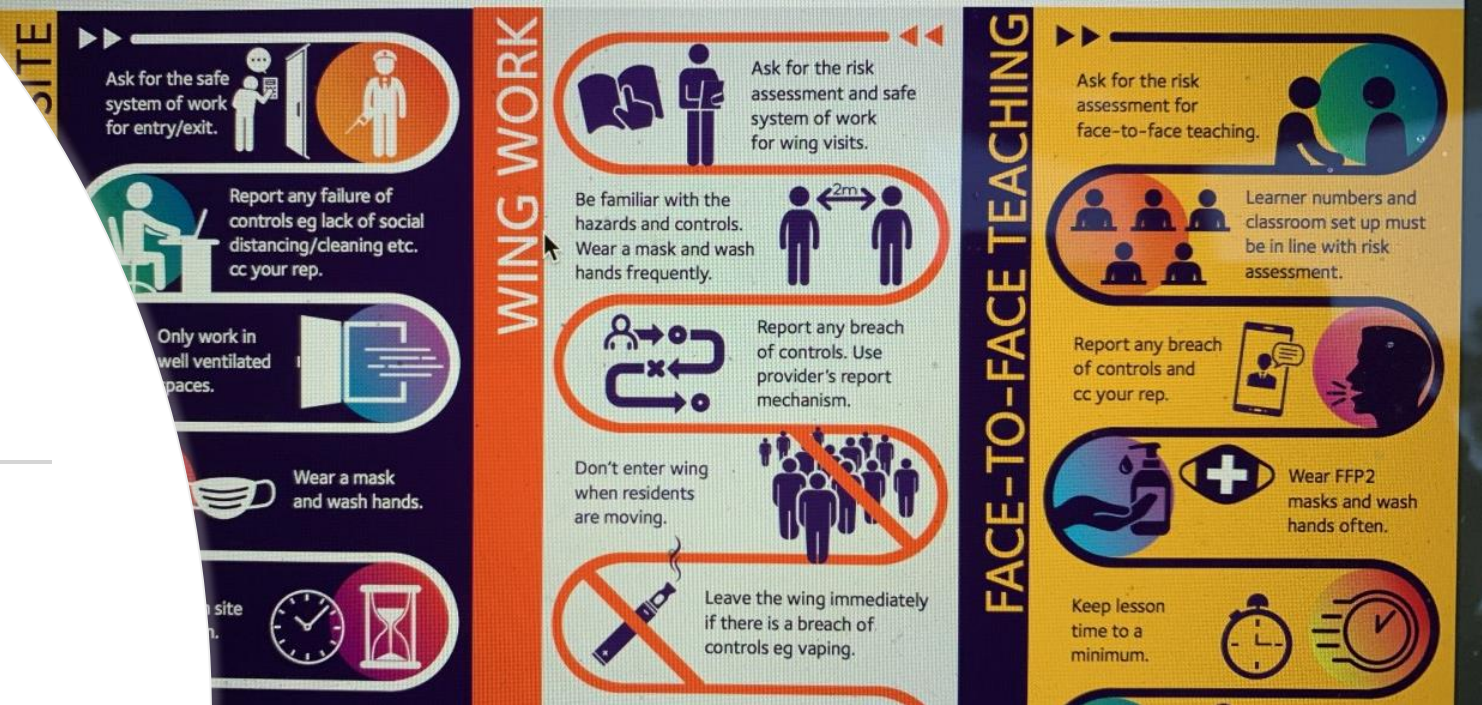
Terms & Conditions Demands



- In relation to pay and conditions we are demanding that the following practices are adopted to ensure that no member suffers any financial, physical or mental health detriment:
- staff with caring responsibilities are offered the option of furlough
- clinically vulnerable (or staff who live with anyone who is clinically vulnerable) to work from home (not just extremely vulnerable) or placed on medical suspension on full pay. We note that this is the approach taken by HMPPS as set out in the Gold Briefing and if employers operate a 'voluntary attendance' on site option as requested above, then also avoids the additional stress placed on this group of workers to attend in person.

UCU H & S Resources

- **H & Safety Risk Assessment Checklist**
- <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/11125/Hazards-and-controls-in-prison-education?list=10700>
- **Stay Safe on site Posters**
- <https://www.ucu.org.uk/prisons>
- **Is your employer taking a risk with your health or is it putting safety first? Let us know and share your story.**
- <https://www.ucu.org.uk/HygieneTheatre>
- **Template Letters**
- https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/5364/Login?ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ucu.org.uk%2Fco-vid19letters#prisons?utm_source=Lyris&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=reprs&utm_term=broff-prisons&utm_content=New+UCU+materials+for+prison+education+branches



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