

NO MASK - NO VISIT

Unite health and social care workers had expressed their anger and fear at the 'supplementary advice' recently given by the Chief Nursing Officer on the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) which contradicted the Government's advice issued on Friday, 4 April – this guidance that was clear and absolutely welcomed by workers. (<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-infection-prevention-and-control-in-healthcare-settings/>)

Unite has been in constant contact with Scottish Government Officers, COSLA and NHS Employers and as a result, the advice has now been withdrawn. This will help to give Unite members, who are delivering a first class and vital service across the whole of the Health & Social care environment and the people they care for the confidence to carry out their job without undue exposure to a deadly virus. Unite believe that health and social care workers should always use their professional judgement and undertake a dynamic (self) risk assessment on the need and use of PPE. Unite recognises that PPE supplies are challenging however Unite members need appropriate PPE for their own safety, their family's safety and indeed the safety of the people they care for.

Unite calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that all health and social care workers be given the appropriate PPE to do their valuable and important roles - without which, the impact will be devastating. Workers want to do their job – it is up to their Employer to ensure adequate PPE is available to allow them to do so.

In the meantime, Unite's advice to health and social care workers is clear - if you are unable to do your job safely, you are within your rights not to carry out a visit. Use your own professional judgment and if you believe you need a mask, wear a mask - NO MASK, NO VISIT. In addition, Unite advises members who feel they are being put at risk, to send the overleaf letter to their manager and their manager's manager as a matter of urgency.

UNITE - BECAUSE YOU DESERVE BETTER!

Dear

I am writing to express my real concern in respect of current working arrangements and the danger I believe I am facing on a daily basis.

I am not satisfied that the assurances we have been given are valid and I believe that I am being exposed to 'serious and imminent danger' as specified in health and safety and employment law and that the duty of care the council owe me is not being honoured.

In these trying times, we are all trying to go the extra mile to assist but it is simply not acceptable for myself, my co-workers and my immediate family to be exposed to this risk and I must reluctantly say that it may be necessary for me to withdraw from some aspects of the duties I am being asked to do in order to protect myself and my loved ones.

I am asking that the dangerous aspects of my job are suspended immediately until a safe and acceptable way forward is established and agreed.

Regards