

UNISON's General Advice on Coronavirus

Members working in the education sector have raised questions about the coronavirus, so we have produced general advice in line with the NHS and Public Health England's guidance.

- Coronavirus officially named (Covid-19) is a new respiratory illness that has not previously been seen in humans.
- Despite there being confirmed cases in the UK, the risk of getting the COVID-19 in the UK is low.
- Public Health England are reviewing the situation daily and publish regular updates. You can keep updated by visiting the public health website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

The latest advice from the World Health Organisation for the general public is:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty.
- When coughing and sneezing cover your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue – throw away the tissue immediately into a closed bin.
- Always wash your hands:
 - After coughing and sneezing
 - After caring for the sick
 - Before, during and after you prepare food
 - Before eating
 - After using the toilet
 - After handling animals or animal waste
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical advice early (by calling NHS 111 in the UK) and share your previous travel history with the person you speak to
- As a measure good food safety practices, avoid eating raw or undercooked animal products. Raw meat, milk or animal organs must be handled with care, to limit and avoid cross-contamination with other foods.

Look out for and take note of any advice from your employer.

PLEASE NOTE: These are the standard recommendations for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses including Coronavirus.

There are Chinese people studying and working in schools, colleges and universities across the UK. Employers should not tolerate racism in any form, and we encourage students and staff to report any incident of racial harassment and seek support from their UNISON branch and employer.

UNISON members can e-mail education@unison.co.uk for further information.