**Model letter for branches to use to get employer to sign the Covid safety pledge**

**{insert employer name and**  **address}**

**{insert date}**

Dear **{insert employer’s name}**

**COVID SAFETY PLEDGE**

Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic is far from over, with each new variant seeming to have higher transmissibility and reinfection rates. As we enter the autumn and winter it is likely that we will see further waves of infection and new variants that could even evade the health benefits of the current vaccine.

With the workplace being an environment where infection can rapidly spread, we are asking **{insert organisation's name}** to sign up to Independent SAGE’s Covid safety pledge and take simple measures to protect UNISON members from the risk of Covid infection. Independent SAGE’s Covid safety pledge includes pledging to protect staff, users and customers from Covid by:

* Assessing the physical environment and working practices according to health and safety law
* Abiding by the best public health advice and supporting staff who test positive for Covid

High levels of absence from reinfection, the impact of long Covid and burn out in staff who are working through staff shortages, all risk affecting service delivery and we ask you to act now. As well as protecting our members, by signing up to and implementing the pledge, the actions taken will also help to reduce the impact of Covid on the delivery of services.

The pledge can be found at [THE NEW COVID-19 SAFETY PLEDGE | Independent SAGE](https://www.independentsage.org/the-new-covid-19-safety-pledge/)

We hope you can support the pledge and ultimately make the workplace safer for all who use it including the public and service users.

Kind Regards

For and on behalf of **{Insert branch name}**