



# SAFETY i-NEWS LETTER

FROM CWU REGIONAL SAFETY REPS

We last wrote in the summer, when we had ended the lock down. Then along came wave #2...

With pressure, it has been such a busy time, some offices with 20+ staff away with Covid or self-isolating, 30+ staff, 40+ staff, some temporarily closed completely. Plus there's a new variant lurking about.



✓ But there is hope, since Summer there is a now a vaccine. The nation's NHS and health care workers and almost all of the nation's over 80YO's have been vaccinated. Despite reports with international and European supplies, it's still refreshing to know that some of the vaccines are made in Britain. But the queues are still long, it may take months.

✓ Plus since the summer virus testing is much improved, many MC's process over 4000 kits home testing per day<sup>i</sup>, there are easy access drive through NHS test centres. For the alternative linear and lateral flow tests, local town walk-in centres, plus after Sheffield MC piloted a 'walk-in' workplace test centre, that is now being rolled out, with the next being set-up in Birmingham MC. Access to a test was never this easy during the first wave.

We wanted to talk with you again. [With some fresh stuff about best protecting yourself, your workmates, your income and your family.](#) Last time we said, there's been so much written and said, it's very confusing.

There's a lot of Covid denial, bullsh\*t, political nonsense, conspiracy theorists, etc. So the next article is with them in mind.

## The Facts:

Covid-19 is not Flu. **It is a virus like the Common Cold.**

**✗** Unlike bacteria, some of which are beneficial to humans. Practically all viruses are harmful, debilitating and potentially deadly to humans, much like conspiracy theory.

**Who remembers Zika Virus in 2015? Not fatal, in fact very mild symptoms. But which affected significant numbers of births, causing defects and brain deformations.**

Also HIV, Rabies, Herpes, Smallpox, Norovirus, Hepatitis, Gastroenteritis, Polio, Foot-and-Mouth, Ebola, MERS, SARS, etc.

**✗** **No virus should ever be taken for granted.**

Even Measles, Mumps, Chickenpox, German Measles(Rubella), also known as childhood diseases but with the potential to render the unfortunate individual sufferer blind, deaf or sterile.

Until mass UK vaccination was carried out in the 1960's, like Covid-19, all these childhood diseases were commonly known to be fatal.

**✗** Virus is known medically to cause or trigger lymphoma, carcinoma and other cancers too. Little is known about this particular virus strain. Therefore prevention must be the best plan to deal with this disease and any other virus.

**Do you know if Covid-19 has made YOU sterile yet?**

**Coronavirus: What you need to do**

**CATCH IT**  
Germ spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

**BIN IT**  
Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

**KILL IT**  
Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

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@DaveWardGS @CWUNews The Communications Union #TheCWU

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The communications union  
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😞 So, if you have any personal views that's great. But when you are at work deal with the facts, keep your dark-web and conspiracy theories to yourself.

## Prevention:

Even though the virus has changed, the method of defeating it remains the same.

### 1. Washing really works:

✓ Washing using soap, loosens the grip of the virus's protein spikes on our skin, so it can be easily rinsed away.

**Remember: If you don't use soap your just wasting your time.**

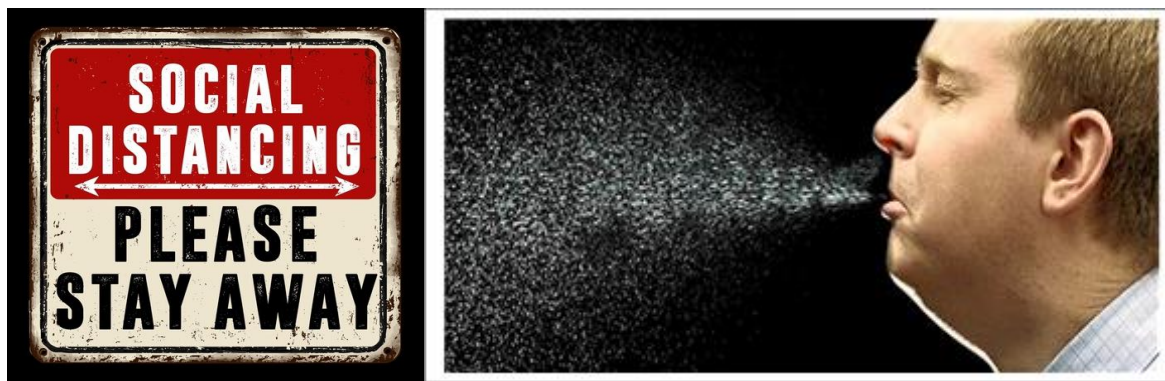
✓ Failing that a strong anti-virus or alcohol compound will destroy the virus resting on our skin. Preventing it from entering our bodies with food or accidental touching of the face.

### 2. Social Distancing:

The government's other prescribed method for dealing with the virus, so please maintain good social distance.

✓ Have your conversation, **but keep your distance.**

✓ Don't cheat, you would **only be fooling yourself**, keep your distance 2meters over 6 feet. Further if you can.



In November 2020, RM management unilaterally and foolishly mandated all employees to wear masks, despite not addressing this during the year. This has caused widespread confusion and problems.

✗ Pressing ahead without getting the best advice or seeking a mutually beneficial agreement with CWU.

✗ Though CWU has recommended the wearing of face protection all through the Summer and Autumn.

✗ Masks are not PPE to us – we aren't NHS trained in infection control.  
So what did they do wrong?

Before day 1, some managers were queuing up to harass employees while others couldn't give a damn.

- Some DOM/WAMs harbour their own personal views.  
**Are unprofessional.**
- First thing most reps would say is;  
Do we have an agreement? Why not? Naturally,
- Some colleagues do look for a reason to not comply.  
Even with an agreement, it's expected, naturally.
- Leading to friction, flashpoint, conflict and un-necessary time, wasted.
- Considering most doctors are working around the clock vaccinating the UK public he personally launches a policy demanding doctors notes...

Compounded, these issues made that decision, **even worse.**

😬 Considering our brilliant union is so strongly supported, 97.1% and really good at communicating. It was really foolish to behave in the manner that the Safety Director actually did.

✓ Compared to the actions of our own CWU Terry Pullinger, who on social media, pitched it just right, and saved the Safety Director from disgrace and his personal confusion.



✓ Fortunately there are new masks, more comfortable, much less irritating, washable too, and FREE. **Have you got yours yet?** (See Mgr.)



Their masks protect me from them.

My mask protects them from me, if I wear one too.

**Masks are therefore a badge of respect. That we wear if we are going to protect one another.**

Masks are the physical essence of Dignity and Respect and now protection too, in the workplace.

**Everyone deserves to be protected in their workplace, so we should work to make that a reality, everywhere that we can.**

Logic indicates why we must.

Since November Covid-19 deaths have doubled in the UK.



Let us try and put that in perspective for you.

- The total number UK civilian deaths in WW2 was **67,000<sup>ii</sup>**. **Fact.**
- The UK Covid mortality figure is in excess of **103,000 deaths**.  
(in just 1 year)
- WW2 in the UK from Summer 1939 to Summer 1945 lasted **6 years. Fact.**

Worse than that (ongoing) hospital admissions due to Covid-19 have been over 380,000, with **39,000<sup>iii</sup> admissions/beds occupied this last week.**

The NHS has come close to failure, with typically most wards being set aside, specifically for this disease.

Triage in some units is close to condemning patients to certain death.

With a further number of people, colleagues and family members struggling and agonising in their own homes, in some cases for several weeks, needing care, meds, and oxygen. **That figure above, does not come even close to the actual reality.**



So, are we coming out of this second wave?

Help us to make certain that we do.

Help keep your workplaces safe.  
Remember – If in doubt,  
Call 119.

😞 So, beware the idiots.

They get everywhere.

On behalf of all of your CWU Regional ASRs and Safety Reps,  
Stay safer.

**#staySAFER**



<sup>i</sup> A high value £multi-millions product.

<sup>ii</sup> Civilian deaths not military/UK forces

<sup>iii</sup> 4,500 per day 12.01.2021.