



UNITE TRANSPORT & FOOD UPDATE

What Unite is saying:

Number 1

✓ The importance of Transport and Food workers must be respected

Transport and Food have been recognised as “critical sectors”:

“Food and other necessary goods: This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).”

“Transport: This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.”

If you are in a critical sector, *“if you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision”.*

✓ Transport and Food workers who are working must be safe

Safe systems of work and Personal Protective Equipment PPE in Transport and Food are essential to protecting our members, families and communities.

Use the **“Unite Health and Safety Guide Coronavirus COVID-19”**

<https://unitetheunion.org/media/3006/007-unitecoronavirusguide-20-04-03-v12b.pdf>

It covers risk assessment, prevention/adequate control of exposure and measures to enable **social distancing of 2 metres** such as staggered breaks, start and finish times; safety in **travel arrangements**; enhanced **cleaning** in the workplace, safe management of handwashing, changing and **toilet facilities**, and eating areas if open; availability of hand cleaning facilities/sanitiser; driver access to welfare facilities HSE advice here : <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/drivers-transport-delivery-coronavirus.htm>; safe use of appropriate **PPE** – thoroughly cleaned or single use; facilities for **isolating**; **training** and information fully available

✓ Transport and Food workers prevented from working because of COVID-19 need financial and job protection

Unite was right at the heart of setting up the Job Retention Scheme, ensuring workers can stay employed, but be “furloughed”, with government reimbursing 80% pay up to £2,500 a month, and Unite negotiating to build on this. We have also ensured the scheme for self-employed workers was set up. Full details of all schemes here <https://unitetheunion.org/coronavirus> – regularly updated.

✓ Transport & Food workers who are off sick, shielding, or caring for others need financial and job protection too

Unite has negotiated support and raised concerns with government. New guidance on 4 April confirmed the furlough scheme also applies to shielding and childcare. See Unite link above.

**We will produce updates for Unite shop stewards and reps in Transport and Food sectors over the coming days and weeks as things progress.
In the meantime, stay safe, protect your families and please help those around you.**

