

Who is behind the Pledge?

The Pledge is a broad coalition of Trade Unions, Community Groups and expert organisations, who have come together because we all realise that the Government will not act to keep us safe. We need to act in order to keep ourselves safe.

Amongst others, the Pledge coalition includes ASLEF, NEU, PCS, RMT, Unison and Unite; Clinically Vulnerable Families, Covid Bereaved Families for Justice and Long Covid SOS; British Medical Association, Doctors in Unite, The Hazards Campaign, Independent SAGE.

The level of support for the Pledge is remarkable and keeps on growing. The priority now is to campaign together to get as many employers as possible to sign up and begin to implement the necessary safety measures.

For that we need **your** help.

"Thanks to vaccines, we have far less deaths and serious illness than before. But that doesn't mean Covid is over. Over the last year we have had successive waves of covid infection, and the autumn is likely to bring more, which have brought misery to millions, caused huge economic disruption, damaged the education of our children and placed an unsustainable load on the NHS. We must act now to bring infections down, especially in workplaces where we spend so much of our time. The Covid Safety Pledge is a vital initiative in making that happen."

Martin McKee, President, British Medical Association

What is the Covid Safety Pledge?

The Pledge commits employers and organisations to three things:

- protecting workers, customers and service users from Covid
- assessing the working environment and working practices for Covid safety
- ensuring that workers who are Covid-positive are given the support they need to stay at home until they are better and no longer infectious.

The Pledge is not meant to be an end point. It doesn't specify all the things that should be done. Rather, it is a starting point which allows customers, service users and workers to raise the issue of Covid safety and discuss what is needed to make workplaces and public spaces safer, and support those who get Covid properly.

The Pledge is also designed to be a public commitment. By displaying a Pledge certificate prominently, both in premises and online, customers and service users can tell which organisations take safety seriously and can make informed decisions about where to go (and not to go).

The Pledge helps in making the more vulnerable members of our society feel able to use public resources and services. Covid safety in hospitals for example causes a lot of anxiety for clinically vulnerable people. The Pledge also helps form a coalition between workers and the public in promoting safer working environments.

"The pandemic reminded us of the importance of collective action and solidarity. As the cost of living crisis develops, conditions at work will be under attack further. Trade unions remain the biggest obstacle to the governments' antiquated agenda of individual responsibility. I invite all trade unionists to engage with the Covid Safety Pledge and use it to gain membership support to campaign to make it a reality."

Tracy Edwards, PCS Health and Safety Officer



