

COVID-19 – Update No. 14 from the Staff Union

Dear colleagues,

We hope that you and your respective families are well, protected and safe. In short, that you are still hanging in there!

Phase 2 of the RTO begins at headquarters on 18 June, and a phased approach will be followed in all duty stations taking local circumstances and the specific features of each office premises into account. Colleagues around the world are preparing for the eventual return to their offices. It is therefore important that we take every precaution against infecting others in the workplace. The administration and the team of COSH members are doing everything they can to make the offices as safe as possible for your return. We kindly ask that you keep yourself informed about how to ensure maximum safety for yourself and your colleagues at the office – including social distancing and basic hygiene practices. As COVID-19 will circulate within our communities even after the most stringent social distancing policies have ended.

It is important, even at this stage of the process, to recall that the staff are covered by Article 8.8 of the Staff Regulations.

Your representatives, present in the different official joint bodies (COSH, JNC, etc. ...), have been duly consulted on the different phases of the return, and have been able to make important points at each stage of the process, not only to guarantee the essential principles of confidentiality and equal treatment, but also to insist on the need to show flexibility according to the many individual situations which do not necessarily fit into pre-established boxes.

The Staff Union has also requested the administration to remind managers to continue to be flexible during this time, and to accommodate the individual circumstances of their team members. Please discuss your options for continued teleworking or returning to the office with your supervisor. The return to office should be in accordance with the RTO guidelines in your duty station. Be sure to read all the RTO guidelines sent by the administration.

Behind the scenes and in the various consultation bodies, the Staff Union continues to work jointly and as quickly as possible with the administration on the new directives, as new circumstances are generated by the different phases of deconfinement. Indeed, each new stage requires a temporary adaptation of existing rules and it is important that the current employment and working conditions of colleagues are clearly established and preserved. Information on telework, working hours and leave should be published soon. **READ THEM - CAREFULLY**

Your Union will also be much more present in the HQ building, and will be able to help you throughout this new phase, bringing any concerns you may have to the attention of the appropriate person so that the most suitable measures possible are taken or, if necessary, invented.

We understand that this is an unusual situation, and we remain available