

Unions highlight toll of crisis and threat to safety

France

The impact of the crisis on health staff has been highlighted by public services trade unions as the evidence from the [CFDT](#) shows. The union is pushing for official recognition of COVID-19 as an occupational disease and for a fund to be set up to deal with the long-term effects. Trade unions are pushing hard for more personal protective equipment and the [CGT](#) has given a formal notice of potential strike action across the public services to allow its members to take action where they feel that there is a real threat to workers and citizens. Action has already been taken in the care sector, for example, by workers at a [care home](#) in Le Havre who have been overwhelmed by the catastrophic situation there. Meanwhile, the [FO](#) trade union has launched a general legal action challenging the failure to take adequate action to address the emergency and calling on those responsible to face up to the deaths and infections that have resulted. For [UNSA](#), its calls for increased protection, particularly for health workers, have been echoed by the independent and influential Académie Nationale de Médecine.

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