

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** March 27, 2020  
**Regarding:** School Shutdown Week 1 Update

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Against the backdrop of an evolving global pandemic and a declared provincial state of emergency it is understandable that all ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members would be feeling somewhat anxious and concerned. In these uncertain times our priority must be public health and personal safety.

**Looking ahead to School Shutdown Week 2 here is what we know:**

- Premier Ford has suggested that schools will not reopen on April 6.
- The Ministry of Education, School Boards, and all OTF Affiliates are working together to create a plan for what distance teaching and learning might look like during an extended period of school shutdown.
- An announcement regarding the status of school shutdown and next steps regarding distance teaching and learning is expected early next week.

**Here is where things stand in the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB):**

- All schools/worksites have been or are in the process of being deep cleaned and remain closed to all staff.
- ETFO TVTL and TVDSB are in constant contact and working collaboratively to address issues and concerns related to the school shutdown.

Principals have been directed to hold virtual staff meetings on Monday to address operational issues related to the school shutdown. These virtual staff meetings are to take place within the instructional day and are to comply with the provisions of the Collective Agreement.

The TVDSB is considering direction that would have ETFO TVTL Members contact students individually at some point during the school shutdown. ETFO TVTL has expressed profound professional concern about this in the strongest possible terms and urges TVDSB to follow the more prudent suggestion of the Director of Education - that contact with students occur as part of a coordinated plan for distance teaching and learning and in the context of group access rather than individual interaction.

The ETFO Local office remains accessible to Members by phone and email only. Released Officers and Support Staff are working remotely.

Local office hours are as follows:

- Monday to Thursday 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Local office phone number is 519-474-3150. Call as needed and follow the prompts as required.

**ALL ETFO TVTL Members are advised of the following:**

- Those who have travelled outside of Canada over the March Break must continue to self-isolate for a period of fourteen (14) days as per direction from the Government of Canada on the advice of Canada's Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Update Local and Provincial Member Profiles in order to receive all Local and Provincial bulletins, communiques and advisories.
- Continue to follow directions from public health officials regarding COVID-19. Relevant links to government and public health agency websites are posted on the ETFO TVTL website (etfothamesvalley.com).

**Finally, all ETFO TVTL Members are directed as follows:**

- Abide by the provisions of the Collective Agreement which remain in effect even during the time of an evolving global pandemic.

We all continue to live and work in very challenging times. As we stand together our collective priorities must continue to focus on:

- Public Health
- Personal Safety
- Actions that are in the interest of the common good.

ETFO TVTL will continue to communicate with all Members in a clear, concise and timely manner. For more information regarding this *Communiqué* contact the Local office by phone (519-474-3150) and follow the prompts or by email at [etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com](mailto:etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com).