

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: September 1, 2022
Regarding: **Absence Protocol Updates – Thames Valley District School Board**

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Please note the information in the email below sent on Tuesday has been impacted significantly upon review of the new screener released yesterday. As such, and following further consultation, we will be revising our Absence Protocol and messaging as it relates to quarantine language. Effective today, quarantine may only be accessed at the formal order of the local health unit and in conjunction with notification to our Abilities & Wellness team. The quarantine code will no longer be available to select in TVARRIS for reporting of absences. This was the original intention of quarantine language. Illness will be utilized by staff effective today who are ill regardless of the nature of illness. Similarly, care days will be utilized by caregivers where applicable.

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

After consultation with the Ministry and Health Units, the COVID-19 Protocol 2A – Staff Absence Coding has been updated to reflect the new guidelines, which will be shared as part of the PA Day on September 6 and was shared with Admin at System Leaders today. The screener is no longer required, though of course is still recommended.

In summary, quarantine language will be accessible only for confirmed cases of Covid-19 – with the staff member following related protocols regarding isolation. Confirmed cases will be based on self reporting and/or written direction from the Health Unit.

Quarantine benefits will no longer be accessible for symptoms - as the Health Unit notes that there are many other like-illnesses now surfacing which do not necessitate mandated quarantine.

Please note the following key changes from the Protocol:

- All staff are eligible to access quarantine benefits (if eligible as per their Collective Agreements) if they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 and/or are formally directed by the local health unit to quarantine
- Quarantine benefits will no longer be accessible for symptoms
- Eligible staff will continue to have access to sick time/care days (if related to child illness) if unwell and unable to attend work

Please let us know if you have any questions,

Thanks,
Bethany Martin, CHRL
Manager, Labour Relations, Human Resources
Thames Valley District School Board

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com

*c/ Released Executive, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local
Elizabeth Kettle, Executive Assistant, ETFO Provincial*

“The collective agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook.”