

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)

Date: September 18, 2020

Regarding: In-Person/Full Remote Learning Update (1)

ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL) is obliged by statute to work with the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) in representing Members and to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Collective Agreement. **ETFO TVTL does not endorse the school reopening plan.**

Direction, Advice, Reminders

Members are directed to follow the provisions of the Collective Agreement. It is the expectation of ETFO TVTL that TVDSB and its agents will do the same. Violations of the Collective Agreement must be reported to the ETFO Local office immediately.

ETFO TVTL Members are advised to request that directions from Principals/Vice-Principals be put in writing if there is a concern or lack of clarity.

ETFO TVTL Members are reminded that “expected” does not mean “mandatory” and that an “ask” is not direction.

ETFO TVTL Members are further reminded that the health of Teachers and the safety of Students is paramount. Questions regarding Health and Safety must first be brought to the attention of the site supervisor (Principal) as per the Occupational Health and Safety Act. ETFO TVTL will continue to provide immediate support and guidance to Members in all matters relating to Health and Safety.

Some Questions and Answers Arising from the Workplace Stewards' Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

If a teacher's child is diagnosed with COVID-19 but the parent is negative, is the parent/teacher expected to go to work if they have no one else to care for child? Do they use sick days or care days?

Teachers access Care Days as per the Collective Agreement. Teachers is advised to be tested for COVID-19.

Is it true that schools are now accepting home learning students?

At this point there is still some student movement between IPL and FRL schools. This will end shortly.

Our LST has been tasked with completing IEPs for all students learning online. The reasoning given was because they are still attached to our school. Is this accurate?

Yes, at this point.

DE teachers are being asked to teach online AND in class simultaneously. This is very stressful for the teachers and I am very concerned about privacy of both students at home and in class and we are also concerned about privacy of a supply teacher needs to take over for a day in class and virtually simultaneously.

This is of great concern and has caused much confusion. ETFO and Senior Administration have engaged in ongoing discussions about this. Senior Administration has heard the concerns and it is our understanding that clear communication regarding reasonable expectations will be sent to the system shortly.

Do we have to post online assignments to kids who are away or who are isolating?

If using a learning platform post assignment so that absent students can access as able. There is no remote/synchronous/asynchronous teaching for these students while absent.

Can we speak to the reduced French minutes for online learning?

Sure. The number of required minutes of French instruction in FRL schools has been reduced for Term 1. Only Members who are French qualified can be assigned to teach French.

A family does not want to have their child wear a mask and is going through the process to be exempt. The member teaching them is at risk and wants to know what his options are?

Exemptions from the mandatory wearing of masks (for Members and Students) can only be made on documented medical grounds. Members who are faced with this situation should contact the ETFO Local office.

If a student is not attending but is registered currently for IPL are staff required to provide math/literacy in paper format? Do they also need French provided?

No. They are treated like any absent student and can access assigned class work just like any other student.

I've a student who requires educators to wear a clear face so they can read lips. I'll do that, no problem. However, the only board-approved clear masks fall apart. Specifically, the glue holding the flimsy foam to the clear plastic unsticks when humid. It fits poorly and is less of a safety device than it is a novelty. What is the process for getting other options available?

This is a matter that should be brought to the immediate attention of the Principal. Board is required to provide PPE. If the matter is not resolved by the Principal, contact the ETFO Local office.

Can students switch from FRL to IPL schools (and vice versa) at any point?

No. Although there is still some movement at this time, there will be two fixed transition points moving forward (November and January).

Will teachers who are teaching in FRL situation be able to file expenses for tax purposes?

This issue has been raised with ETFO Provincial and has been added to the October Labour Management agenda. Members are advised to hold onto all receipts that are work-related.

"Paper packages," what gives?

The issue of paper packages for students is on hold and teachers should not be planning or preparing work in this format at this time.

Have there been plans to hire more Occasional Teachers to support the probability of greater absence times/quarantines/isolations?

It is our understanding that the Board continues to hire Occasional Teachers.

Have you heard what the nurses will be doing in our schools?

No, but we will follow up on this.

Members are thanked for everything they are doing in these challenging times.

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