

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** January 31, 2021  
**Regarding:** IPL Learning Platforms, Absent Students, Term 2 Six Week Rule, Personal Protective Equipment

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**This week**, the primary focus for Teachers and Students at In-Person-Learning (IPL) schools **must** be on re-establishing routines and providing ongoing reminders of school health and safety protocols. As IPL schools reopen, the situation and expectations are now no different than they were on December 18, 2020.

## Absent IPL Students

- By law, **all** school age children in Ontario are required to attend school.
- All IPL Students are expected to be present at school. Students not in class must to be marked **absent**.
- If a Teacher is using a learning platform, then open-ended activities, accessible to all students, can be posted there. There is **NO** synchronous teaching and **NO** alternative planning for IPL students whose parents have made the parental decision to keep their children at home.
- There is an adjudicated process that parents **must** follow to move their children from an IPL to Full Remote Learning (FRL) school. The Board is expected and urged to make these decisions quickly and without delay.

## Term 2 Six Week Rule

- Term 2 commences on Monday, February 1, 2021.
- The Six Week Rule is effective Monday, February 1, 2021.
- For greater clarity, this means that report card writing responsibilities for students who move and are removed from the roll within the first six (6) weeks of the term are assumed by the Teacher receiving the student. Students who move or are removed from the roll thereafter will receive partial report cards from the Teachers affected.

## IPL Learning Platforms

- IPL Teachers are expected to have a learning platform of their choice. While it is not mandatory that a learning platform is used, it is prudent to keep the platform current in the event that schools are closed again.
- There is **no** synchronous/asynchronous **teaching** for absent IPL students as schools have now re-opened (there may continue to be specific situations in special education classes where this is necessary).
- Principals **must** now be removed from **teacher view** on learning platforms and restored to **student view** only, as per agreement with TVDSB Senior Administration.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Teachers are required to wear all mandatory PPE, as directed by the government and provided by the employer.

Medical exemptions and/or accommodations with regard to PPE must be approved through TVDSB Abilities and Wellness via [medicalnote@tvdsb.ca](mailto:medicalnote@tvdsb.ca) before commencement of use.

## Reminders

- Focus on core teaching duties.
- Do not do the work of other bargaining units or employee groups.
- Where possible, avoid unnecessary busy work.
- Be aware that Teacher participation in **any** TVDSB event schedule outside the instructional day, or during unassigned time (recess/lunch/nutrition breaks), is **strictly voluntary**.
- Teachers are reminded that “expected” does not mean “mandatory.”
- **Professional Judgement** is embedded in the Collective Agreement. It cannot be enforced if it is not exercised.
- Teachers are further reminded that their health 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.

It is the **duty** of the Local to:

- Defend the **Collective Agreement** and the rights of Teachers under it.
- Ensure that the provisions of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** are vigorously enforced.
- Bring to the immediate attention of the Thames Valley District School Board the concerns of Teachers, with the expectation that these concerns will be taken seriously, addressed quickly, and resolved fairly.

ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local respects the time of Teachers and apologizes for the intrusion on your weekend.

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

c. *ETFO TVTL Released Officers*  
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local  
Elizabeth Kettle, ETFO Provincial CB Staff Officer  
Linda Nicholls, Human Resources Superintendent