

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: August 28, 2020
Regarding: Reopening Update (4)

On July 30 the government announced its plan to reopen schools in Ontario.

On August 13 the Minister of Education announced changes to this plan.

On August 20 the Ontario government announced that current orders issued under the *Reopening Ontario Act (ROA)* would be extended until September 22 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

There will be three (3) PA Days prior to the start of the school year – September 1, 2, and 3. These are workdays. The terms and conditions of the Collective Agreement apply.

There is now a staggered entry for students commencing Monday, September 14. Teachers will use the week of September 8-11 to prepare and plan. The terms and conditions of the Collective Agreement apply during these workdays.

In the Thames Valley District School Board nine thousand five hundred (9500) TVDSB elementary students will be taught remotely. The Board is setting up six (6) Full Remote Learning (FRL) schools.

Approximately three hundred fourteen (314) Teachers will be placed or assigned to FRL schools.

The creation of the FRL schools will cause surplus in many In Person Learning (IPL) schools. Surplus Teachers will be placed in FRL schools.

Federal funding allocated to TVDSB by the provincial government will mean that sixty (60) Teachers will be hired to lower class sizes below provincial guidelines in Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes. Reorganization staffing has been paused at this time.

During this period of reorganization staffing Teachers are advised of the following:

- When the pandemic is over and there is a return to normal schooling Teachers will return to assignments given April 15, 2020.
- System seniority is used to determine surplus at schools. There are no protected assignments (Core French being the exception in some circumstances).
- Teaching positions of Teachers on medical and maternity leaves must not be impacted by school reorganization.
- In-school Staffing Committees (ETFO Workplace Steward and divisional reps. selected by ETFO staff) should be active and providing input to Principals as per the Collective Agreement.
- ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL) and HR Staffing will meet weekly through the period of reorganization staffing.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Government of Ontario has mandated that all Teachers will wear masks in schools. TVDSB will provide Teachers with two-month's supply of surgical masks (2 per day) which must be worn in schools and is a condition of employment. Face shields will be provided to Teachers in Special Education classes and for other Teachers if they are requested.

Teachers are only to use PPE provided by the employer.

It is now mandatory for all TVDSB students K-12 to wear masks.

Reminders

- The challenging situation we all face is evolving and things can change quickly.
- The terms and conditions of the Collective Agreement are in full effect. Violations of the Collective Agreement must be reported to the ETFO TVTL office immediately.
- The ETFO TVTL office will reopen on Tuesday, September 1 at 8:15 a.m. Released Officers will be available to provide support by phone and email. Details of the Local office reopening plan will be shared during the week of September 8.
- The Provincial Government is directing the reopening of schools. Their plan is deeply flawed.
- ETFO TVTL and TVDSB continue to work to make sense of the reopening plan.
- Teacher health and student safety are the local priority.
- Until September 1 Teachers remain on summer break.

These are frustrating, confusing, concerning, and anxious times for all Teachers. ETFO Local will continue to fight the good fight on behalf of Teachers and will share all relevant information as soon as it is available.

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