

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: October 16, 2020
Regarding: Summary of Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education (Shared with Local Presidents)

Presidents, we had a brief meeting with the Deputy Minister today on reopening issues. She shared the following updates:

1. The Deputy Minister reported that the Assessment Memorandum was shared last week and a Memorandum re: Readiness to Move to Remote Learning was released yesterday. She advised that this new memo is highly cautionary. There have been some school closures due to positive cases and boards need to be ready to deal with this issue. This is a guidance document and is meant to be pragmatic. There is no plan for automatic closures based on a threshold number of cases. Cases in schools exist but they are not high in number. The Ministry will continue to take guidance from Public Health on a school by school basis. She indicated that even with the announcement last week re moving three areas of the province into a modified Phase 2, there is no plan or advice from Public Health to close schools.
2. An update was provided on PPE. The Ministry is continuing to work with the service provider responsible for delivering PPE to school boards. The provider is moving to a four week balanced load plan for deliveries. They are also doing updates to warehouse processes. The Sharepoint site with PPE product information is now in the 'preview' stage and should be ready soon to release to the system.
3. The Deputy Minister asked about the status of a meeting to discuss reconsideration of the 50 day rule. They will continue to look for a date that works for all GSs.
4. The Deputy Minister provided an update on a request made last week by ETFO to have school administrators share room number information when a positive case is discovered in a school. This issue was discussed with Public Health. The Deputy Minister advised that if staff want to know this information, the Ministry believes it is appropriate to ask the principal for it and the information can be disclosed. They did not support "posting" the information.

Sharon O'Halloran
General Secretary

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