

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: December 17, 2021
Regarding: Weekly Update (15)

“It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour.”

Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

This has been a very challenging school year so far. As we all approach a well-deserved break, you are thanked for your professionalism and grace under pressure.

Have a safe and peaceful holiday.

School Closures Due to Covid-19

Given the recent surge in Covid-19 cases, a number of schools have been closed to students and have pivoted to remote teaching and learning.

Some reminders:

- The first day of the pivot is asynchronous.
- The second day of the pivot is synchronous, following the usual school timetable
- Teachers work from school.
- Teachers who have been directed to isolate by the Health Unit (HU) will be covered by an Occasional Teacher and are released from all duties until there is a negative test clearing them for return.
- Principals should be granted access to the learning platform to admit Occasional Teachers and support Teachers as required.
- Occasional Teachers will assume the teaching responsibilities for the day and adopt the schedule of the Teacher replaced. This includes posting information on the learning platform and activities for students to do.
- Given that an Occasional Teacher may not know what to post, Administrators are required to support the Occasional Teacher in posting to the platform.

Teachers with questions or concerns about school closures due to Covid-19 should contact the Local office directly.

Travel

The Government of Canada is advising that Canadians avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada. A link to the Government of Canada website accompanies this weekly update.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the communication protocol (CA LOU 7, Communication Protocol) **commences** on Friday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. and **ends** on Sunday, January 2 at 6:00 p.m.

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 attention of TVDSB ongoing Teacher concerns, with the expectation that these concerns will be taken seriously and resolved quickly.
- Communicate with Teachers in a clear, concise, and timely manner.

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

- 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