

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: December 31, 2021
Regarding: Weekly Update (16)

“Mismanagement and grief: We must suffer them all again.”

WH Auden, September 1, 1939

To begin, profound apologies for interrupting this well-deserved break.

Yesterday, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) announced that students would return to school on Wednesday, January 5.

At this point we understand that Teachers will work from home on Monday, January 3 and Tuesday, January 4. On these days there will be absolutely **NO** asynchronous or synchronous teaching and learning.

As Teachers are no longer identified as essential workers, access to RAT/PCR tests is limited.

Teachers will be provided the option of wearing Board-supplied N95 masks.

More detailed information will be shared in the days ahead.

It is now abundantly clear that the Ford government has given up the fight against COVID-19 and has thrown in the towel when it comes to a collective commitment to the safety of Teachers and Students. ETFO TVTL will continue to fight on behalf of Teachers and the Students in our care.

For your information, Premier Ford can be contacted by phone at 416-325-1941 (Queen’s Park) or 416-745-2859 (Constituency Office).

Ernie Hardeman MPP (Oxford) can be contacted by phone at 519-537-5222.

Monte McNaughton MPP (Lambton Kent Middlesex) can be contacted by phone at 519-627-1015.

Jeff Yurek MPP (Elgin Middlesex London) can be contacted by phone at 519-631-0666.

Teachers are reminded of the following:

- Use TVARRIS Code Quarantine if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Teachers should use sick days for their intended purpose and can access up to ten (10) consecutive sick days without provision of medical documentation.
- Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), Teachers have the right to refuse unsafe work, without fear of retribution or reprisal.

School and Classroom Closures Due to COVID-19

Some reminders regarding the pivot to remote teaching and learning:

- 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 isolating due to COVID-19 symptoms should use TVARRIS Code Quarantine. Teachers are released from all duties during the quarantine period and should expect to have the absence covered by an Occasional Teacher.
- 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.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the communication protocol remains in effect until 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