

December 16, 2021

Alexander Brown
Chair
Toronto District School Board
5050 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2N 5N8

Dear Alexander Brown:

I am contacting you as the Chair of the TDSB to advocate for the highest safety standards for the staff I represent. Given that the TDSB must provide a safe environment for all employees and students, and that COVID 19 continues to rise during the fourth wave, the Elementary Teachers of Toronto requests N95 masks for all ETT members.

We are hearing from our members who wish to wear an N95 mask while teaching for increased protection. They are finding it an increasingly stressful undertaking to teach effectively while wearing masks provided by the TDSB, which are not the highest standard of protection available. The masks the Board provides are baggy, do not fit well and represent a substandard option of PPE.

At the beginning of the pandemic, it was challenging to source N95 masks. This is no longer the case. N95 masks are plentiful, the highest quality mask, and made in Ontario. Providing N95 masks would demonstrate that the TDSB cares about the safety and well-being of their employees.

Currently, TDSB employees are only permitted to wear such PPE if they work in a congregated setting, work in an environment with aerosol-producing procedures or obtain a medical note accepted by disability claims.

This leaves many Teachers unable to wear superior PPE than is provided by the TDSB. Members who wear N95 masks provided by themselves risk discipline. If the Board chooses not to purchase the highest quality masks to improve the safety of their workers, we ask that the TDSB allow members who choose to wear N95 masks to be able to do so without fear of discipline.

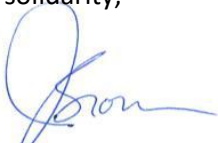
Most recently, the Ottawa Carlton District School Board permitted staff to wear N95 masks instead of the masks provided by the Ministry. In addition, the TCDSB has allowed their staff to wear N95 masks/respirators as well.

The Elementary Teachers of Toronto asks that a motion is brought to the next Board meeting allowing members to wear N95 masks/respirators as they see fit.

ETT is also requesting that the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that the Minister provide to Education staff Health Canada approved respirators for daily use.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter of critical importance to your employees.

In solidarity,



Jennifer Brown
President