

January 2, 2022

Greetings Director Colleen Russell-Rawlings,

I am making an earnest request on behalf of the Elementary Teachers of Toronto that the TDSB remain closed and not reopen sooner than January 12th to improve the health and safety protocols and systems within the schools for the following reasons:

- To help minimize a potential surge following holiday gatherings
- To ensure that all staff and students receive N95 masks in advance of student arrival;
- To establish better lunchtime protocols for staff and students, given the high transmission rate of Omicron
- To establish a concrete plan shared in advance with the staff about how to deal with unfilled absences
- To ensure that HEPA filters are distributed throughout the school in all public spaces
- To procure enough PCR tests for all staff and students

In addition, a delayed return to school gives more time for the TDSB to comply with the OHS 25(2)(h), "take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker." To this extent, the TDSB should also consider using the board properties to set up drive-through vaccination clinics for any staff requesting a booster.

Please take this opportunity to make the right decision and prove to your employees, students, and the community that you care about and respect their

health and safety. The Elementary Teachers of Toronto implores you to do your utmost to make 2022 the best possible start for everyone.

Best regards,



Jennifer Brown
President
Elementary Teachers of Toronto

cc

Andrew Gold, Interim Associate Director

Craig Snider, Interim Associate Director

Audley Salmon, Executive Superintendent of Employee Services

Ross Parry, Executive Officer, Government, Public & Community Relations

Alexander Brown, Chair of TDSB

TDSB Trustees