

School Name	Town Hall Chat Member Questions regarding January 17 Reopening
Taylor Creek	<p>What if because of our role, we need more than 2 masks each day?</p> <p>Please speak to your admin immediately about having the school provide extra masks. You can also fill out a Health and Safety Concern/Near Miss Form. Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] should be provided for all workers. If your Admin cannot/will not provide adequate PPE you can also inform them that you are refusing unsafe work.</p>
Bloorlea MS	<p>If teachers need to isolate because a family member has symptoms, do we use sick days or quarantine days?</p> <p>Teachers can use their miscellaneous days (caring for a sick family member) but you must have those days available, and we were given a maximum of 5 days. If you have symptoms, it is sick days. If you have no symptoms, it should be the quarantine code. This may change without notice, when needed, please email your administrator for guidance.</p>
Montrose PS	<p>Are we covered with long term or short-term sick benefits if we get sick with Omicron when we return to school?</p> <p>You can access your sick days while you apply and waiting to be approved for WSIB.</p>
Charlottetown JPS	<p>If we have to isolate due to symptoms or the symptoms of a member of our family, are we required to use our sick days or is there another bank?</p> <p>Sick days if you are sick Quarantine code due to isolation for a family member's symptoms.</p>
Orde St PS	<p>Toronto is a dangerous place to be going into any congregate setting right now and that will not change in a matter of days. What support can ETT offer members who expect to refuse unsafe work on Monday?</p> <p>A number of members have enquired about Work Refusals. Kindly see etfohealthandsafety.ca for further information. Read the Work Refusal Flow Chart and Shine a Light on Work Refusal pamphlet on the ETT website. Remember that you MUST be on site to refuse work and you must refuse BEFORE children are in your care. Be sure to contact your Executive Officer/ Health and Safety Inspector</p>
Anson Park PS	<p>Recently we received a letter from the head of TDSB stating that teachers will be issued N95 masks, but they will be given to those who are face to face teaching before virtual teacher. As a virtual teacher, I am required to do yard duty during unmasking periods. During each yard duties I am in close proximity of multiple children from multiple classes. Should I not be guaranteed proper protection during these times? Can I refuse to do yard duty without proper PE?</p> <p>All staff must have proper PPE on at all times. COVID is highly contagious. N95 masks are now available for all staff. Ask your Admin for N95 masks.</p>

John D Parker JS	<p>If a grade 1 student tells you his or her mother gave him/her medicine because he or she is sick with a cough is that grounds for work refusal?</p> <p>Contact the office and send the child to see the Admin. The principal may investigate. You may not enact a Work Refusal once children are in your care. You must wait for a break in the day. You may then tell your Admin that you are refusing work before your next class.</p>
Portage Trail CS	<p>I am asked to cover for absent colleagues. One classroom has students who do not wear masks. Got sick after being in that room for 1/2 day. I feel very unsafe being there. Can I refuse?</p> <p>Teachers must accept emergency duties as assigned. However, you can choose to do a work refusal before the children are in your care. You can tell your Admin, "Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act I am refusing unsafe work." Ask the Principal to find you a safe space to stay until your Issues have been addressed and you feel safe. Remember you must be present at work. Members cannot phone-in a work refusal. What do we do if because of our role, we need more than 2 masks each day? If your mask is soiled members should go to their supervisor and request another.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Office Staff from 8:00-4:00 they work unmasked in our front office so they're expressing aerosols all day and anyone, teachers, students, couriers, electricians, etc. are exposed to whatever that staff may be carrying. By the time they put their masks on, it's too late to make the space safe that they've potentially been infecting. Teachers have to wear masks at all times, even outside when we might be able to be far enough away from others to be safe. When the question was posed to our ETT health and safety rep., he was as shocked as I was to learn that the TDSB allows office staff to remain unmasked unless someone new enters the room and TDSB has even been backed by whoever they consult with for health and safety. Can we please change this rule so people can feel safe entering such common areas including the gyms, libraries and anywhere else in schools that people may access throughout the day?</p> <p>If you decide to speak to the office staff, be sure to be professional and polite. Express that your concern is for the safety of all participants at school. If you do not feel comfortable speaking to the office staff or feel that they continue to ignore protocol, be sure to speak to admin about PPE and protocol – especially in common areas, staffroom, gym, office etc. Make it clear to the principal that you and others are not feeling safe and that you want the principal to ensure that safe practices are followed. You can also submit a Health and Safety Concern/Near Miss Form.</p>
Bedford Park PS	<p>Lecce just announced that parents will not be informed of Covid outbreaks in schools unless 30% or more of the school population is absent. This is unfair to withhold this information to parents as they should be able to make informed decisions about whether to send their children to school or get tested. Will teachers be told if there are confirmed cases of Covid in their classrooms?</p> <p>The TDSB has informed us that they are looking into communication procedures for staff and parents when cases have not met the 30% threshold. These procedures are still under development, and we are awaiting updates. In the absence of TPH involvement in tracking and tracing, ETT has requested that the Board establish and communicate with us clear criteria and procedures for monitoring and</p>

	<p>reporting of Covid cases to local public health authorities, staff, and families. ETT has requested that TDSB report outbreaks well before a school reaches the 30% threshold required by the provincial government.</p>
Karen Kain School of the Arts	<p>What is being done to make sure that staff who become ill will have replacement supply teachers? They are virtually impossible to come by.</p> <p>OTF rules in relation to OT work have been loosened to facilitate more availability of replacement staff. Teaching faculty students are also being permitted to engage in OT work. Schools may also make use of TDSB “emergency supply” lists. If all else fails, Principals do have the right to take additional measures to cancel prep or combine classes to ensure that students are safely supervised by an adult.</p>
Churchill PS	<p>Will our union be ensuring we receive RATs, case tracking, and access to PCR tests, and proper PPE?</p> <p>ETT is advocating for increased supply of RAT and PCR tests but supply of these is determined provincially. Delivery of RATs to schools is underway. These will be made available to teachers and students. PCR tests are in limited supply and will be given to unvaccinated staff who need to provide bi-weekly testing and are in short supply. ETT is concerned that an absence of PCR tests and tracing will present challenges for members applying for WSIB claims. We are in communication with ETFO in relation to this issue.</p> <p>Also, for teachers who have been virtual since September and have a virtual class, can they continue to work from home.</p> <p>ETT made a request at the beginning of the school year that virtual teacher be allowed to work remotely. This request was denied. Virtual teachers were required to be in school prior to the Winter Break and there has been no indication from the Board that this position has changed.</p>
Cosburn MS	<p>How will you protect teachers who have chosen to teach virtual for health reasons from covering other classes during absences?</p> <p>Teachers with medical documentation that includes restrictions and limitations need to contact their Executive Officer for support if appropriate accommodations are not being made in the workplace.</p>
Bendale JPS	<p>How is it safe for students to eat snacks and lunches in the classroom without masks?</p> <p>Teachers need to complete health and safety concern forms for any situation that is unsafe. ETT will continue to press the TDSB for a solution needs to be made aware of the quantity and nature of these concerns so that we can publish this data to the media and the public.</p> <p>Who is responsible for providing asynchronous work for students who remain at home next week?</p> <p>Teachers are required to provide lesson plans and materials for the students in their class. As always, if students are at home and not able to come to school, parents may request a package of work. This should be sent home by the school office and should only consist</p>

	<p>of materials that have been distributed in the face-to-face setting. Alternatively, students may access materials that are posted on the classroom website. This should not be an additional workload for the teacher. Members seeking more information should refer to the ETT Advisory on this topic at the link below:</p> <p>https://ett.ca/advisory-program-of-study-and-student-absence/</p>
Brookhaven PS	<p>As a Virtual teacher can I be asked to cover another class if shortage of staff?? This would mean I would have to provide asynchronous to my own class and likely plan for a different class.</p> <p>Teachers who are asked to provide emergency coverage during their prep are not required to plan for the class they have been asked to cover. If a virtual teacher is asked to supervise students while simultaneously teaching a class online, it is the responsibility of the P/VP to ensure that these students have work to engage with while the virtual teacher is teaching online. Members are advised that several steps should be undertaken to avoid this scenario. The Principal MUST attempt to retain OT coverage for an absent teacher. If no OT is available, the principal should attempt to retain an emergency supply teacher before cancelling a teacher's prep or combining classes. Principals and Vice Principals should also be helping to safely supervise students – this is everyone's responsibility.</p>
Donview MS	<p>We have been asked to continue rotary of classes and enter multiple classrooms. Teachers are exposed to hundreds of students every day and are not being protected by cohorting like kids. What can the union do to help teachers limit their exposure to endless number of kids?</p> <p>Teachers are encouraged to complete a Health and Safety Concern Form for working conditions that are unsafe. It is critical for ETT H&S Inspectors and Executive to be made aware of this data so that we can effectively to advocate and lobby on behalf of our members both locally and provincially. ETT will continue to raise this concern with the Board to prioritize that the integrity of cohorts be maintained.</p>
Rose Ave JPS	<p>What would happen if a member informed parents directly about positive cases in our classes?</p> <p>Members are advised to not communicate any information with parents that could be considered a breach of student privacy. This may result in discipline.</p>
OT	<p>Has the OT list been expanded from 4000 to hire more OTs?</p> <p>The Toronto OT Local Collective Agreement with TDSB contains a provision that caps the roster of TDSB Occasional Teachers at 40% of the FTE of the ETT Local. It is important to note that there are many factors that are exacerbating the failure to fill problem. The number of OTs on the roster is not a primary cause of this problem.</p>
Lebbury Park EMS	<p>As a rotary teacher, I am concerned about the possibility of being reassigned on a frequent basis to cover my colleagues' absences. What can I do if this becomes an issue?</p>

	<p>ETT has asked the TDSB to provide clear direction to Principals about the steps that need to be taken in the event that there is a failure to fill. We will continue to press the Board to ensure that cancellation of preps and classes and combining of cohorts are done only as a last resort and in a way that is equitable and fair for all staff. We will continue to press this issue with the Board at the coming ECC meeting</p>
Wedgewood JPS	<p>I have yard duty which requires me opening car doors and assisting students out. How do I protect myself in this situation?</p> <p>Members should always wear the enhanced PPE that will be provided to them. Teachers should not be making physical contact with students and should always follow health and safety protocols - e.g., regular sanitizing of hands, maintaining distance in enclosed spaces. Staff meetings are a place where these concerns should be openly discussed and conveyed to the principal. Contingencies and alternatives should be considered to maintain student supervision while optimizing the health and safety of staff. Your school steward may reach out to the school executive officer for support in dealing with these situations</p>
Fraser Mustard ELA	<p>Is the Union advocating for teachers and other education workers to have access to emergency childcare for young school age children (e.g., 4-year-olds who are JKs)?</p> <p>The provincial government has not declared teachers to be frontline workers. Advocacy for this designation has been taking place at the provincial level between ETFO and the government.</p>
Regal Rd PS	<p>What is the Union position about how to protect cohorts in our schools when the Board and Province are openly talking about collapsing classes together on an 'as needed' basis while refusing to report or track active COVID cases as well as COVID exposure?</p> <p>Cohorts need to be maintained and the Board has committed to do this where possible. In emergency situations where there is no supervising adult, safe supervision of students is imperative. Principals and Vice Principals need to support staff and maintain cohorts by offering to supervise classes to avoid combining cohorts when every other avenue has been exhausted. ETT has asked the Board to provide clear information to us about the threshold for closing a class or school because of staff absence. It is important that clear criteria be established and applied equitably across the Board</p>
Bridlewood JPS	<p>When will the union fight against the vaccine mandate? The vaxxed are catching and spreading the virus. Having them in schools is the same risk. When will the union respect personal choice over coercion?</p> <p>The union has been working relentlessly on behalf of all members regardless of vaccination status. The reality that TDSB has mandated the vaccine for all employees is an approach which other boards have not taken. The TDSB has placed unvaccinated teachers on an involuntary leave without pay. Given that the government has not mandated the COVID vaccine for teachers, the TDSB's mandate for the vaccine is an overreaching demand. The union has taken the position and has been fighting to allow unvaccinated teachers to continue teaching once a negative test is provided. This is the approach which all other surrounding Boards of Education have taken and so too can</p>

	<p>the TDSB. The union recognizes the reality that anyone, vaccinated or unvaccinated, can catch and spread the virus. Therefore, the union is fighting for the testing for all in education to help make the teaching and learning environment safer.</p>