



Health and Safety Heads of the Union Meeting Minutes—January 13, 2022

Health and Safety Regarding January 17, Reopening

Reporting on COVID

How will you keep staff and parents informed?

We are looking at having letters going home to parents concerning an actual identified case of covid within the classroom. In addition, we are looking at providing students who are considered symptomatic within the classroom environment with a PCR test where available.

Isolation Period

For the vaccinated, the isolation period is officially at five days. For those who are unvaccinated, the isolation period is for ten days. It does not mean that the entire class goes home; however, we will be looking carefully at that. If we've got five or six kids in the classroom that are COVID confirmed, then we can see moving to remote. However, the challenge will be the issue of having a COVID positive confirmed because we will provide students with the rapid antigen tests or PCR test if there's a symptomatic case in the school these days. So students may not be disclosing.

The process will be sent to administrators shortly this afternoon concerning specific criteria and strategies to address making a particular decision. That decision-making process involves going to remote. Administrators will consult with their LN Superintendents to make an entire school go remote. Consultation is to occur with the Executive Superintendent the Associate Director. There is no specific number that we're using to make that determination at this time.

When will all the adjustments and changes be shared with staff?

The operational guidelines team is continuing to update specific sections of that guidelines.

Information will be sent to all staff, including temporary, occasional, and retired teachers. We're going to include some of the updates we've got, including information instructions on N95 how to wear them.

Things are changing fast, and we will have to wait for Monday for the most up-to-date thing and health and safety measures from TPH. However, I know TPH is still supposed to be sending us some information about case management. Also, some information from the Ministry was received today in a memo about the Rapid Antigen Tests.

Will the reporting to TPH continue?

We still haven't heard from TPH if they will allow us or don't require us to report those cases to them anymore. We're still waiting on confirmation from TPH because that has been a requirement in the past. We are required to register communicable diseases to TPH. So, again, things are still moving and can change. It may change this afternoon, it may change tomorrow, it may change on the weekend, but that's what we have now.

How many tests were distributed, and do you know when employees take them? If it's only two tests per person?

We were looking at my TDSB at this point and, of course, system leaders to share information with their staff, especially if they're coming new into the building.



Health and Safety Heads of the Union Meeting Minutes—January 13, 2022

Who do Admin Report PRC and Rapid Antigen Tests to?

Principals continue to report to the Senior team and the associate director when they know of positive PCR and RAT cases. However, we are unsure how that will play out because of the 30%. We are still waiting for some information to clarify from the province currently.

Will the TDSB implement enhanced reporting procedures and lower the 30% reporting threshold to 10%? This would be in keeping with your current practice to go beyond the minimum ministry requirements.

We can't say at this time. We will need to examine that possibility with the team and get back to you.

How do daily OTs get their mask? How do they get the info?

Occasional teachers would go to the main office and get information about, for example, the safety plan is for a particular student other relevant information. They would also get their allotment of N95 masks.

How will staff shortages be addressed?

Situations that would involve staff shortages go to SmartFind, the normal channel of trying to get a supply. This also includes getting someone as an on-call teacher to go into that classroom or reassigning one of the resource-type teachers to temporarily fill that particular to take care of that classroom.

HEPA Filters

How many have come in from the Ministry?

We are expecting a shipment of 300 HEPA filters, and these are HEPA filters that are somewhat smaller in capacity than the Austin filters to be placed in classrooms. The guidelines state that if it's a single occupant office, you can close the door and open the window; there is no need for a HEPA.

HEPA filters in small offices, members in many schools report they don't have it. So how do we resolve that? Who do they call?

We are asking staff to request their supervisor, and an assessment will be completed.

We are requesting a HEPA filter wherever teaching is occurring.

We have provided HEPA filters for school admin offices, recognizing that there are people who come in and out, and we have provided them in resource rooms. Our goal is to continue to distribute them in those resource rooms where there may be more than one occupant in that room.

Masks

We are hearing only one mask per member per day.

The Ministry is telling us one mask, per person, per day, and the other blue masks would be around 2 per day. It is all based on availability. We do have more medical masks than we do N95.

If the mask becomes, soiled members would go to their supervisor and get another.

Staffing

Administrators are encouraging staff to notify as soon as possible if they are currently self-isolating, whether it's five days or ten days. For example, teachers are encouraged to put into the SmartFind express system before Friday if they already know they will be absent on Monday due to Covid. Staff are encouraged to put the information into the system before 6:00 o'clock PM daily to enable appropriate decisions in the evening for the following day.



Health and Safety Heads of the Union Meeting Minutes—January 13, 2022

Is the board considering calling members on involuntary leave back to work if they test regularly?

There is no talk of doing that at this time.

When will the decision be made to close the school due to insufficient staffing levels?

If we're going to make decisions around closure, we want to make those decisions by 8:00 AM and inform the community. This will be posted on the TDSB website.

Rapid Antigen Tests

There will be two per person. We are still working on how it is all going to get operationalized. We understand a memo coming from the Ministry about exactly how the students will access it.

Not sure if it's saliva tests or nasal tests that will be available.