

March 30, 2022

VIA E-MAIL

Colleen Russell-Rawlins
Director of Education
Toronto District School Board
5050 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2N 5N8

Dear Director Russell-Rawlins,

Re: Ministry of Education Update, Lifting of Health and Safety Measures in Schools

On behalf of Toronto Education Workers/Local 4400, Elementary Teachers of Toronto and OSSTF Toronto we ask that the TDSB reconsider its current position with respect to the removal of public health interventions which have been essential components in mitigating the risk of SARS-CoV-2 and subsequent variants of concern.

The recent announcement from the Ministry of Education to lift these protections in school settings to coincide with community public health measures will have an adverse and disproportionate effect on school communities while increasing the risk to students and staff who are immunocompromised or that have underlying health conditions.

Given the emergence of the Omicron sub-variant BA.2 along with its increased transmissibility we believe a cautious and prudent approach must be applied when considering what measures should be implemented to support the return of staff and students into a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Listed below are the recommendations that we believe the TDSB should take into consideration.

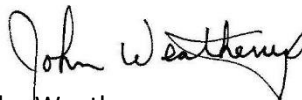
1. Ensure daily screening continues to be completed through the TDSB's ServiceNow app.
2. Provide rapid antigen tests to staff and students upon request.
3. Increase caretaking funding to maintain enhanced cleaning standards.
4. Allow staff who require accommodation to work remotely where possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Brown
President
Elementary Teachers of Toronto



John Weatherup
President
Toronto Education Workers/Local 4400



Michelle Teixeira,
President
OSSTF Toronto Teachers

