



Stronger Together

October 1, 2020

VESTA Weekly

Topics Worth Talking about! Please read and discuss with your colleagues

Reporting protocols for confirmed cases of COVID-19

The Provincial Health Office and the Health Authorities are guided in their decisions by a document titled: "[COVID-19 protocols for school and district administrators: Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases](#)". This document outlines the process required for communication within school communities when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19. Here is a summary of key points:

- Public Health are the only ones who can determine who is a close contact
- School Administrators are notified by public health when confirmed cases are identified in school communities and cooperate in provision of information.
- Notification will occur only if the student or staff attended school during their infectious period
- Self-isolation is required only when advised by the Health Authority

The BCTF and VESTA have both been advocating for clearer communication, the inclusion of teachers and more transparent contact tracing processes. The number of schools impacted by confirmed community cases continues to grow and we are working closely with the district to ensure that member's concerns are heard. Here are some things you can do to help clarify a more successful and transparent process at your worksite:

- Ensure that student schedules are up to date, and that they accurately reflect all adult interactions (work with SLPs, Teacher Psychologists, Area Counsellors, dates of TTOC attendance).
- Ensure that itinerant, district and on-call colleagues are part of your school communications lists
- Use Staff Committee to make recommendations to the Administrator where appropriate. Consider a standing H&S agenda item on upcoming Staff Committee Meetings for your H&S reps to update / hear concerns from members.
- Use sick leave when you are sick
- If you have a concern about your safety, report it immediately to your P/VP and if the matter continues to be unresolved, ask your H&S rep to put the matter on your JOHS committee agenda.

Your administrator does not have the ability to override the orders of the Provincial Health Officer or the School Medical Officer, but staff have the right under our Staff Committee Meeting provision (Article A.5.5) to make recommendations to the Principal on teaching and learning conditions, scheduling and any other matter of concern to teachers. You can ensure that your school process is clear and well understood, and that members know what to expect.

TTOCs, Itinerant and District Staff

TTOCs are entitled to the first 45 minutes of their first assignment back in schools, duty-free in order to complete the VSB Health and Safety Orientation. Please reach out to TTOCs at your worksite and support them to receive that time if they have not been provided it. Many TTOCs are being denied this right upon arrival at schools.

Please make sure that your site has an up to date Health and Safety orientation form for district and itinerant staff and TTOCs. Our colleagues who are working between sites need to be aware of the protocols in order to follow them and protect themselves, other staff and students. This can be done through JOHS or Staff Committee.

Dates to Remember:

Social Justice and Solidarity Standing Committee Meeting
October 6
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97902552091?pwd=SGdRMG83SGRsb3NDaXc4STVEVkJkQxUT09>
Meeting ID: 979 0255 2091 Passcode: 451718
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aBi16YKA3>



Joanne Sutherland
President
joanne@vesta.ca

Allison Jambor
1st Vice President
allison@vesta.ca

Darren Tereposky
2nd Vice President
darren@vesta.ca

Jody Polukoshko
3rd Vice President
jody@vesta.ca

Donna Brack
AE President
donna@vesta.ca

Office:
604-873-8378
Fax: 604-873-2652
www.vesta.ca

VESTA

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.