

Memo #9

Date: December 7, 2021

To: Members

Re: **Travel over the Holidays; Parents Keeping Their Children at Home**

Travel over the Holidays

Canada has lifted its global travel advisory that asked Canadians to avoid travel for non-essential reasons outside of the country. However, it advises Canadians to be aware of the COVID-19 situation wherever they are headed. Learn about [travel advisories](#) related to COVID-19.

To limit the further spread of coronavirus in Canada, travel restrictions are in place across all border crossings when entering Canada. Your ability to return to work/school and quarantine requirements after returning from travel outside of Canada will depend on your COVID-19 vaccination status.

Visit Health Canada's website for more information about COVID-19 travel:

- [Requirements for fully vaccinated travellers entering Canada](#)
- [Requirements for fully vaccinated travellers and unvaccinated children less than 12 years of age](#)
- [Travel checklist for requirements and exemptions](#)

Parents Keeping Children at Home

We are continuing to see an increase in the number of students absent due to Covid-19 symptoms. While they are away teachers can be supporting them, with the realization that the work provided will not match the instruction/teaching one would get by being in the class. Some teachers may be posting to their Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), such as Brightspace, over the course of the day/week etc. This does assist those students/families that are required to self-isolate due to COVID symptoms.

Another issue we are seeing is Parents keeping their children at home – not because they are sick, or they are self-isolating – because they are afraid or worried for their child's health during our current pandemic situation, or due to case counts and/or outbreaks occurring at their child's school.

Parents have chosen Face-to-Face learning for their child(ren), and if parents are keeping their child home for a day or two, we would follow our normal practice of supporting them upon their return to school.

The Board agrees:

I know many of you/all of you have some parents that are self-selecting to keep their children at home for an indefinite period (more than a day or two) even though they do not have Covid-19.

Therefore, parents that keep their children home without a justifiable reason cannot just request work from their child's teacher. This decision is within their control, and we do not provide support on an ad hoc basis.

There are circumstances where students are at home for an extended time and are to be provided work. Such as some students are medically fragile, and cannot attend in person, and have restrictions that limit

their ability to attend using the virtual school. Therefore, they are still on the classroom teacher's roster, and through collaboration with the SERT and Educational Assistants, the student receives support.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit Office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815