

Memo #12

Date: January 16, 2022

To: Members

Re: **Back to In-School Learning Information (Part 1) - January 2022**

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Absent Students and Teacher Requirements/Responsibilities

The Board is not offering entry, for those students currently in face-to-face learning, into virtual classrooms at this time, and they are not requiring teachers to move to hybrid teaching/learning. The expectations for teachers can be found in [Policy/Program Memorandum 164](#).

However, we do know some parents will be withholding their child(ren) from school for a period of time, due to the spread of Omicron. As well, we know due to Omicron, some students will be absent due to being required to self-isolate. Therefore, it will be hard for us to determine why a student is absent. It would be prudent to continue to post “**some**” work to your Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Asynchronous Expectations for all teachers:

- Post work that can be easily accessible and posted:
 - No need to recreate work or lessons to replicate work done face-to-face
 - **Keep it simple**
- No need for explanation or details on how to complete
- **No need to monitor your VLE.**
 - **You will not be responsible for answering questions or providing support***
 - **Hybrid is working in both modes, therefore post and work face-to-face**
- No requirement that all that is covered face-to-face is to be posted
- Expectations for Kindergarten and Primary may be different than Junior and Intermediate
 - Posting some common ideas
 - Write a journal entry
 - Read for 15 minutes
- Teachers will not need to assess work that is posted during this time
 - That means some sections of the upcoming Report Cards may have limited information.
- Students with IEPs will be addressed by the Board on Monday

***The Board stated - although not very clearly - in their message to staff and students:**

There will be live teacher-led remote support for all students who choose not to attend in-person learning.

This will not be teachers at the schools. This will be led by other staff. They will be available for drop-in sessions (**Beginning on Tuesday, January 18th at 9:00 - 10:30 and 1:00 - 2:30**) to support them with their asynchronous work. (Further communication will be provided by the Board to staff and parents on Monday, January 17th). As well, parents will have links to various educational sites - grade specific, subject specific - that will provide some extra support for students who are at home.

This is a temporary solution being offered by the Board - the Board is calling it Short Term and Temporary Learning Assistance. If we, as teachers, continue to go above and beyond in terms of providing face-to-face expectations to asynchronous work, providing support to those at home -

through various modes of communication, and assessing, parents will continue to keep their child(ren) at home. The goal is to have the students face-to-face (when healthy), and not support hybrid learning.

Daily Self Screening

Teachers are reminded they should be completing the Board's Daily Self Screening each day before they attend work - ideally before they leave for work.

At the completion of the Daily Self Screening, you will be directed to either attend work or you will be directed to self-isolate.

If required to self-isolate, you will need to do the following:

1. Complete an ARCs absence - using sick/medical (for now)
2. Contact your principal to inform them of your absence
3. Contact the Disability Management Office (DMO) - Gord van Cleef - to notify them that you have failed your Daily Self Screening and reason for failing

Absences related to Self-Isolation and/or Quarantine once verified by the DMO will change from sick/medical to Quarantine. Check your ARCs later to ensure that the change has been made.

Notifying the DMO of your failed Daily Self-Screening versus taking a sick medical day means, once verified, these days do not count towards entry into the Board's Attendance Management Program.

Student Daily Self Screening

The Ministry and the Board both stated:

*Beginning on Monday, January 17th all students **must** confirm that they have completed the daily self-screening by completing a verification form. This is an added layer to ensure that students are complying with the guidance in the COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening. We will be monitoring completion of this verification form through a central audit process.*

However, in the letter to parents it states:

I cannot stress enough how important it is for families to complete this form daily and strictly adhere to the guidelines provided.

These two statements seem to contradict each other. We have known since September 2020 the Board has been using the Honour System with parents and their completion of the Student Daily Self Screening Tool. OECTA has asked, and yet to receive a response as to what, if anything, will occur to students whose parents do not complete the Daily Self Screening for them.

At this point, we have heard the Board's IT department will be creating a link and verification form for parents to complete.

Self-Isolation Room

As the pandemic evolved over the 2021-22 school year so did the expectations and response for students being sent to the Self Isolation Rooms. OECTA has communicated with the Board, and both agree that if a student demonstrates a COVID symptom(s), they should be sent to the Self-Isolation Room.

Emergency Day Plans

OECTA is reminding teachers they should be maintaining about 3-5 days' worth of Emergency Day Plans in the event you are required to Self-Isolate or Quarantine with very short notice.

Self-Isolation/Quarantine

If required to Self-Isolate or Quarantine, and have symptoms, your responsibilities would be to provide a day plan for the first 3 days (Emergency Day Plans could be used if you are to be off for 3 or more consecutive days, but no requirement to post asynchronous work to your Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)).

If you asked/directed to something different, please contact the Unit Office for assistance.

Part 2 will include:

- Supervision
- PPE
- School Closures and Mixing of Cohorts
- Health and Safety and Work Refusals

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