



OSBCU • CSCSO CUPE • SCFP



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Bulletin

December 22, 2020

The OSBCU held a President's Zoom meeting on December 22, at 2pm. This bulletin provides a synopsis of the information that was shared

Beginning in early December the OSBCU has been in consultation with the Ministry regarding a variety of rumours that have been floating regarding the possibility of school closures. Right up to the morning of December 21st, there had been no clear directive. We ensured to distribute any documents provided by the government to local presidents.

Following a series of reports pertaining to leaks from the government and the planned announcement of moving the entire province to the "grey - lockdown" phase, the OSBCU requested a debrief with government officials. We had two opportunities on Monday, one in the morning to discuss possible plans and provide our position, and the second following the Premier's announcement, with the Minister, School Board Chairs and the Directors of Education.

Following these calls we have developed key takeaways for education workers:

- All Public Health Unit areas will be moved to "Grey" effective 12:01 am December 26, 2020- this is much different than the "lockdown" experienced in March 2020
- All students will attend virtually Monday, January 4th to Friday January 8th, 2021
- All students in Northern Public Health Unit areas will return to in class learning Monday, January 11, 2021 - there are 3 school boards that straddle north and south and the Ministry is working with those boards.
- All elementary students in Southern Public Health Unit areas will return to in class learning Monday, January 11, 2021
- All secondary students in Southern Public Health Unit areas will return to in class learning Monday, January 25, 2021
- There is to be no change to the GSN funding therefore, there should be no layoffs
- Childcares in schools will remain open and custodial staff will be present
- Students requiring special education services may access their programming in schools
- Staff will be working virtually from home - there may be exceptions
- If staff have connectivity issues or are unable to work from home, they may access the brick and mortar buildings



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There are many questions that have arisen as a result of this announcement. We are making inquiries for clarification on a number of points:

- Expanding access to emergency child care to include education workers;
- Solid reassurance that there will be no layoffs as work and funding continue;
- Addressing concerns regarding temporary and casual workforce;
- Plans surrounding reopening and preventing further disruption.

We cannot think of a time when education workers needed some downtime more than in the upcoming days. Working under the constant strain of a pandemic under a lack of clear leadership from the province has had a toll on all of us. We do ask that folks consider the following recommendations.

- Ask your employer how these directives will play out in your workplaces
- How do members request devices and/or accommodations to address access to workplaces?
- Review collective agreement language pertaining to the winter break in case folks are asked to come in to support the deployment of resources or prepare for January
- Have members who support the learning of students review PPM 164 (attached) to clearly understand the expectations for amount of time needed on camera etc.

As in the past, we will overcome this situation by supporting each other and continuing our pressure on the school boards and government to properly fund schools so that our members and our students are safe.

In solidarity,

President, OSBCU

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