



Winnipeg Association of Non-Teaching Employees

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President email: wante@mymts.net Website: www.wante.org

August 12, 2020

Good morning Eric,

Upon returning to work yesterday, I had many emails from members asking important questions about the return to school in September. I thought it would be most beneficial if I compiled the questions, sent them your way, and then responded to my members in a point form bulletin and email. I want to make sure all W.A.N.T.E. members are provided with the same information, so there is no confusion come September.

To date, the questions W.A.N.T.E. members have asked are as follows:

Will it be mandatory for all employees, students, visitors, parents, etc., to wear masks in WSD schools?

Will proper face masks and face shields be supplied in the schools for all staff - not only for those working on a 1:1 ratio with students?

What considerations and/or protections have been procured for Educational Assistants, especially those who are working one-on-one with special needs children, young students, or those facilitating speech therapy?

If a staff member, student, visitor, or parent, etc., is welcomed into the school building and tests positive for Covid-19, what is the procedure for all involved?

If W.A.N.T.E. members must quarantine due to a staff member, student, visitor, or parent testing positive for Covid-19, will that employee be paid their regular wage without having to use their sick time?

If W.A.N.T.E. members are being instructed or asked to clean by their administrator or supervisor, is WSD senior staff expecting W.A.N.T.E. members to wipe down areas that students have used such as desks, chairs and classroom equipment? Please confirm what those cleaning protocols would look like.

- Is this in direct violation of custodial jobs?

Will substitutes be restricted to certain schools?

- If not, how can schools ensure the safety of their students and staff?
- Will the division be hiring EA substitutes, similar to last winter? Surplus for each school?

If a W.A.N.T.E. member has a child in school (K-12), and that child is sent home due to a classmate or teacher testing positive for Covid-19 - resulting in the member needing to quarantine, will they receive a paid leave?

Will the time lost in May and June, after term employees were laid off, be considered a break in service?

Will there be a plan for online teaching or for remote learning, as not all families have access to a device or wifi?

- What does this look like for Educational Assistants working 1:1 with students?

What is the plan for staff who are immune-compromised and unable to attend their place of work? Will they be permitted to work from home?

- What are the required steps necessary in order to ensure members are not penalized if they cannot return due to medical reasons?

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carla Paul

W.A.N.T.E. President