



April 6, 2022

## COVID-19 FAQ #8 – 2021-2022

In this COVID-19 FAQ, you will find information on: health and safety protocols; quarantine requirements related to travel; mask mandates; and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

### Frequently Asked Questions

**I heard that COVID-19 cases are increasing. What is ETFO doing to help me stay safe?**

Since the lifting of COVID-19 protections in schools and throughout Ontario there has been a predictable rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. ETFO has advocated relentlessly for protections for education workers throughout the pandemic, including access to high-quality personal protective equipment (PPE), confirmation of screening, and improvements to ventilation. When Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that safety measures in schools, such as masking were being dropped after March Break, ETFO [fought back](#), pointing out that this was premature, jeopardizing the health of students and workers.

ETFO members should follow school board policies/protocols, and should be aware of their [occupational health and safety rights](#), including the right to refuse unsafe work. Personal decisions that can improve safety include:

- wearing the best available PPE;
- opening windows, running HEPA filters;
- avoiding unmasking indoors; and
- requesting ventilation reports to aid in advocating for improvements to indoor air quality.

**I have a student who was out of the country recently. Are they permitted to come to school or do they have to quarantine?**

Fully vaccinated travellers and unvaccinated children no longer need to quarantine after returning from travel outside Canada. However, [current travel guidelines](#) require them to self-monitor for symptoms, maintain a list of close contacts, and wear a “well-constructed, well-fitting mask in public settings” [at all times](#) for 14 days following their re-entry to Canada.

If you have concerns about whether or not this guidance is being followed in your school, please speak to your administrator or your local ETFO office.

**With the removal of mask mandates and other protections, what precautions can we still expect in schools?**

Workers can continue to advocate for additional layers of precaution through their supervisor or Joint Health and Safety Committee. Employers have a duty to take every reasonable precaution.

The Ministry of Labour has supported the provision of evidence of adequate ventilation to workers who have concerns. Ventilation can be checked using the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers' [Classroom Ventilation Calculation Tool](#).

**Can I file a WSIB claim for contracting COVID-19 in the workplace if I am, or am not, vaccinated?**

Yes. Workplace insurance is a “no-fault” system. Therefore, masking/not masking, type of mask and vaccine status have no bearing on WSIB decisions. This means you can receive WSIB benefits and service without having to prove that your employer was at fault for your injury or disease.

**For other information, please check [ETFO's dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#).**