

April 7, 2021



# DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

The urgency of the Pandemic has taken top priority across our Board. Please be aware that all other Health and Safety processes and procedures are still moving forward slowly.

### Public Health

We continue to wade through the impact of COVID-19 and the Public Health policies and procedures. There have been lengthy discussions regarding concerns about the way that Public Health chooses to communicate or provide updates regarding positive or probable COVID-19 cases within our schools but we don't have authority in this area. Staff have been given the PPE, protocols, and guidelines which must be followed to mitigate contact. Essentially, all daily routines must follow what has been described/prescribed by Public Health. It does not sound like there will be any new changes to what we currently have in place.

### Footwear

As the seasons change and both driving/walking conditions change, in addition to footwear choices, staff are reminded to walk carefully and wear appropriate footwear.

### PPE

Face shields are to be worn by OSSTF members when working with students and other staff not wearing masks. There has been discussion regarding the quality of masks being used by OSSTF members working in Technology areas. If there is an issue, please discuss with your supervisor regarding purchase of more suitable face shields. Also, the quality of newly acquired face shields was discussed. The first allotment of face shields received by LKDSB at the start of this school year came with a 14 day life cycle classification. The most recent shields, and there are several different brands now, do not carry the same life cycle classification and are meant to be cleaned and reused until such time as the quality of vision has deteriorated. Members are reminded to follow the proper cleaning protocols distributed to staff.

**Reminder:** All LKDSB staff are required to wear a face shield or goggles at specific times as they conduct the daily business of the LKDSB, and all PPE used should be employer-provided. If you require any special accommodations, please speak to your school administration and your medical practitioner. Only face shields or goggles that have been COVID-19 approved may be used.

### First Aid Certification

The LKDSB will be hosting First Aid Training or recertification over the Spring Break. So far there are more than 60 people enrolled. If you would like to be trained - or require an update on your current training, please contact Liz Parry to make arrangements if there is still space available.

### First Aid Kits

There has been a lengthy discussion regarding the number and location of First Aid Kits within our buildings, as well as who is responsible for checking and maintaining them. Changes will probably be coming in the near future.

### **Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD)**

Every worker in Ontario has the right and responsibility to identify unsafe working conditions. If you believe that your working conditions are not safe:

1. contact your principal (or direct supervisor) and your H&S rep if you believe a reported concern has not been resolved;
2. a workplace complaint can be filed (named OR anonymously) by completing an MLTSD online complaint form (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/filing-workplace-health-and-safety-complaint>) or by calling 1-877-202-0008;
3. you have the right to refuse unsafe work without reprisal. \*

\* Contact the District Office immediately for assistance with this process.

### **Terms of Reference for the JHSC – S**

The current terms of reference regarding the structure and guidelines for the Joint Health and Safety Committee – Secondary will expire at the end of 2021. Review of current MLTSD terms of reference will begin in September 2021. Any suggestions for changes/additions/deletions/amendments to our current document must be submitted for review and consideration before the new terms are approved by all parties and the MLTSD.

### **Health and Safety Representative Certification**

Each worksite must have one certified Joint Health and Safety Committee member (either CUPE or OSSTF). Please contact Wendy Pitvor or Liz Parry at the board, and the District Office, if training and certification is required. Also, please note that if certification was obtained recently an update may be required.

### **Ventilation and Fresh Air**

As we move toward warmer weather, staff are encouraged to allow more fresh air into their rooms and workspaces. If you have doors that open outside or windows that can be opened, please make use of these if safe to do so. Please report any issues to your principal and your JHSC representatives (ie. missing screens). As always, if you have any concerns regarding air quality, please speak to your school administration your school's Health and Safety reps.

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