

January 18, 2023



DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

Items from Joint Health and Safety for the New Year- Happy 2023!

COVID

The Board does still have the daily screener for Covid that we should be aware of and continue to follow the procedures in the event that we fail that screener. Although this is NOT mandatory, it is advised to help reduce the spread of the new variants that seem to continue.

JHSC TERMS OF REFERENCE

Our Terms of Reference were approved by the Board and ourselves and have been submitted to the Ministry for approval which is still in process. We expect that these will be accepted by the spring.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS AND POTENTIAL INCIDENTS

The Board has approved the vendor process for our ladder inspections and these have begun at several schools so Health and Safety representatives should start to see new/up-to-date tagging on ladders both fixed and portable. We continue to see good reporting of potential incidents and want to continue to encourage members to fill out these forms/reports for ALL incidents. These reports generate action from the Board that we want to ensure is completed.

SCHOOL AUDITS

This spring we will be conducting audits of North Lambton and Tilbury; final dates of these is still being determined.

VIOLENT INCIDENT REPORTING

Branch Presidents are reminded to inform all members of the duty to complete/fill out violent incident reports on the portal for any incident that meets this criteria. This includes a student swearing directly at a teacher. We have also asked about communication from the Board regarding actions taken in the cases where violent incidents have occurred and are awaiting a response on this.

HEPA AIR FILTERS

This is a reminder that we have had no direction that the HEPA filters in classrooms are no longer mandatory and so at this time, staff should NOT be unplugging or turning the units off at any time.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

The Board is currently updating the training modules for all Health and Safety site reps that must include a 'voice over' component for the entire presentation to comply with accessibility requirements. This process does take some time and the Board is working quickly to get this done so ALL reps can then access the training as soon as possible. Reps who already completed the training last November, will not be required to re-do it.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of good Health and Safety practices and to reach out to myself or site reps with any concerns.

Cheers,
Stuart Baillie, JHSC OSSTF Representative