



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NSTU Members

FROM: Staff

DATE: March 16, 2020

RE: School Closures (COVID-19)

As you are aware, the Province of Nova Scotia has closed schools for the two (2) weeks following March Break (the weeks of March 23rd and March 30th).

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Education (EECD) has confirmed with the NSTU that:

- Permanent, Probationary, and Term teachers with regularly scheduled days will be paid during this time.
- Long Term Substitute teachers with regularly scheduled days will be paid during this time.

Teachers, as noted above – permanent, probationary, term, and long term substitute, will be placed on paid leave during this time. **The only exception to being placed on paid leave is if the teacher was already on extended leave that is unrelated to COVID-19.** In these cases, the teacher would remain on their original extended leave for the remainder of that leave.

Any teacher on paid leave due to the school closure due to COVID-19 who becomes symptomatic or becomes ill will be switched from paid leave to sick leave. Any teacher who becomes symptomatic or ill should follow the appropriate public health protocols in place at that time, including calling 811 if so directed.

EECD has also informed the NSTU that teachers will not be asked for medical notes at this time.

Finally, any Nova Scotian who has traveled outside of Canada is currently required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return. The announced school closure will likely allow almost all if not all teachers who have traveled over March Break to meet the self-isolation period. However, if a teacher's self-isolation period extends beyond schools reopening, they would remain on paid leave pursuant to our memo of March 11, 2020. Teachers who have traveled should retain proof of travel in the event that the employer requests it.