

**Email message to NSTU members**

**Subject:** COVID-19 Update, May 6, 2021

***The following message sent on behalf of NSTU president Paul Wozney is being forwarded to all NSTU members with email accounts. Please share widely with your networks.***

Dear Colleague,

The past two weeks have been traumatic for school communities across our province. Teachers, students and their families have been directly impacted by COVID -19 in almost every region. Students and staff at entire families of schools have been required to get tested, hundreds of people have been identified as close contacts and required to isolate for two weeks, and most troubling, we have friends and colleagues who are ill.

I want to send my love and support to everyone who is struggling with this terrible virus. You are not alone. Thousands of NSTU members have your back, and together we will get through this. If you require help to manage the fear and anxiety of the current situation, there are supports available to you as an NSTU member. For information about the Member Assistance Program visit <https://nstu.ca/nstu-members/member-services/member-assistance-program> or call 1-800-565-6788. There are also programs available through the Group Insurance Trustees which you can access at: <https://nstuinsurance.ca/members/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>.

To view a video version of this message click here: <https://youtu.be/VTWHK6STkqM>

Something we can all draw strength from is the positive transition to on-line learning, which would not have been possible without your dedication and resourcefulness. The many videos and pictures that have been displayed on social media have highlighted your passion and care for students and families during this crisis. The way you've carried on with dignity and perseverance in order to keep communities safe is something we can all be proud of. You represent what's best about our province and I'm humbled to serve as your president.

Right now, we need to continue to work in solidarity with all Nova Scotians to rid our province of this terrible virus. To this end, Dr. Strang has indicated that in-person learning won't be resuming for a least a few more weeks or longer. Before that happens, the NSTU expects a full and thorough investigation into how and why COVID-19 was able to proliferate through our school system in a matter of days. Given your recent experience, you deserve transparency, accountability and answers to your many concerns.

In solidarity,

Paul