



CUPE

Safe Schools Campaign

Letter to principals on dangerous working conditions and expected remedies

FROM MEMBERS WORKING ON SITE IN SCHOOLS

DRAFT letter to principals, cc'ing Directors of Education and Chair of trustees

RE: Dangerous working conditions at XXXX school

Throughout the pandemic and even during the current lockdown, I am in school every day to do my job as a xxxx. But I am informing you, the principal of XXXX school, that my working conditions are dangerous and put me at risk every day of catching COVID-19.

I know my job requires me to be on site and in school. In fact, I take pride in supporting students with special needs / making schools safe for students and staff / being the school's administrator / etc. [delete/add as required]

However, it is my right to work in a safe environment, just as it is your duty as principal of XXXX school to make sure that my working conditions are safe. But because [delete/add as required]

- I haven't been prioritized for vaccination,
- there hasn't been any/enough staff hired to do the extra work that the pandemic requires,
- [as casual staff] I don't have paid sick days / because co-workers who are casual don't have paid sick days,
- I don't have the right PPE and/or haven't been trained how to use it safely,
- I work in a cohort of students that is too big and/or the cohort doesn't include adults,
- the ventilation where I work is poor / the room I work doesn't have enough air filtration devices,
- the daily screening process has not prevented positive cases from coming to school,

I worry every day that I will catch COVID-19 and infect [delete/add as required] my family / my immune-compromised child / my elderly parents. [Particulars of the job: (delete/add as required)] I have to clean isolation rooms / I work with students who can't wear masks / I am in daily contact with children who spit / I am in daily contact with children's bodily fluids / I might

have close contact with up to xx students in a single day. I deserve every workplace protection to help lower my risk of potential exposures to COVID.

My union has made me well aware of the process around health and safety at work. I know about my right to refuse unsafe work, the role joint health and safety committee, and Ministry of Labour inspections. But you represent my employer, XXXX District School Board, and you must take every precaution reasonable for ensuring that I don't jeopardize my health and safety when I have to come into the school to do my job.

As a matter of urgency, I am demanding [delete/add as required]

- priority for vaccination / fitted N95 respirators / additional hires to share my workload / small cohorts / a cohort that includes workers / paid sick days / paid sick days for casual staff / authorization to work from home / active daily screening / improvements to ventilation.

I look forward to your reply.

MU:gb/cope491