



EasyConnect will be the best system ever!

Uh, have you tried using it yourself yet? It sucks.



## Members Update for September 20th, 2021

**Vaccine Disclosures** – This is going to be the most important piece in this update for anyone that hasn't disclosed their vaccination status yet.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT DISCLOSED YOUR COVID19 VACCINATION STATUS, IT NEEDS TO BE DONE THIS WEEK.**

**IF IT'S NOT DONE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COME TO WORK NEXT WEEK.**

It doesn't matter about your political, religious or personal views on the issue – disclosing your vaccination status is required. We will not be filing grievances over disclosing this information. If members have exemptions from being tested regularly for work, we will support those members and work with the employer to find them suitable accommodations for work.

All 4153 members who have not disclosed their status to the employer yet will be receiving an email from the local to their board mail later today with instructions on how to input their information to the employer.

**Mandatory Vaccinations** – On a related, but totally separate note – HWDSB Trustees passed a motion last Monday regarding making vaccinations mandatory for all employees. I have to do some calling and emailing on this issue, **but it has not started yet and may not ever happen.** Very few school boards across the province are taking this stance because the issues can be very complex for employers. But, I wanted to share this with everyone so that you are aware that it is a possibility for some time in the future. Part of the motion speaks about employees who are not vaccinated being restricted from HWDSB facilities. Well, being the only worker group that can't work remotely – that would mean our members can't be at work. And nobody wants to see that happen. As this piece develops, we will keep you up to date as best as possible.

**September GMM and Bylaws Meeting** – Yesterday was the day for our September GMM and we didn't have quorum to have the meeting. All business will be carried over to the October meeting. Next weekend, we had scheduled and given notice to have a meeting to amend our 4153 By-Laws. We will be delaying that meeting due to members of the By-Law Committee being away next weekend.

**EasyConnect** – Our Executive has our first Staff Relations meeting for the year on Wednesday of this week and one of our main agenda items will be the ridiculous EasyConnect system in place for absence reporting and coverage. I haven't had to use the system yet for reporting an absence, but from various people I've heard from – it's anything but 'easy'. And the coverage side seems to be even more screwed up than the absence side. Casual members being given overtime by the system before 4 or 6 hour permanent members are being topped up to 8 hours is not acceptable. Being able to 'cherry pick' assignments and leave vacancies open day to day shouldn't be happening and was not how the system was explained to the Local or the employer months ago. The system isn't easy – it's a mess.

**Enhanced Cleaning** – The Spectator contacted me on Friday about the enhanced cleaning press release we issued the day before school started to bring attention to the reduction in cleaning and disinfection of touch points this year by the HWDSB. I spoke with the reporter about the situation, number of hours being reduced, budget issues the HWDSB blames the cuts on and a few other issues. Hopefully there will be a follow up or story this week as I think the reporter was genuinely shocked about the drastic cuts to such a necessary tool in fighting the spread of Covid in schools.

On another enhanced cleaning issue – if you are in an enhanced cleaning role, please make sure you are getting to all the areas required as frequently as possible with your time available. I've already heard about enhanced cleaners sitting and staring at cell phones because "there's nothing to do". I've already heard about Principals making calls to supervisors because they don't see anyone out in the school doing the touch points. I have no problem making a stink and drawing attention to the issue of enhanced cleaning cuts in the media and lobbying the employer for more hours in that role. What I do have a problem with is people not taking that role seriously. In school transmission of Covid last year was very low due to one thing – WE kept things clean and disinfected throughout the school day. Even though right now we're down on hours, what we do with those hours for the students and staff in our buildings still matters greatly. We're not done fighting for more hours in those roles and we need to show them how valuable and essential that work is.

That's it for today – I'm sure by the end of the week there will be more to update everyone on.

Blake