



Brothers and Sisters of CUPE 4153,

The HWDSB has implemented COVID 80 option on the Apply to Education/EasyConnect system for all staff to use, As outlined in their last Q & A sheet which was delivered to everyone in the Presidents update Jan 7, 2022. If you have not had a chance to read it, we strongly advise you to. You can view the document on our website (www.cupe4153.ca) under the Presidents Update tab.

It has also been brought to our attention that members are afraid to call in Covid 80. Afraid that they will get in trouble or be followed by a private investigator. Well, you are wrong if you fall under any category requiring you to use Covid 80 which is outlined in the Q & A then you are entitled to use the code. You will receive a follow up email from the HWDSB Wellness Coordinator to fill out some forms/paperwork. This is standard practice that all employees of the HWDSB must fill out.

You will not be charged any sick time and will not be entered into the employee support program, our local collective agreement is clear in the following section,

24.01 The following items are not chargeable to the sick leave credit account and shall be without loss of salary: a) During such period that an employee is quarantined or otherwise prevented by any order of the Medical Health Authorities from attending upon duties because of exposure to any communicable disease

In closing, we ask you not to be scared or worried about any repercussions for calling in using COVID 80. If you fall under any category in the Q & A. We also would like to remind you of the commitment that we all have to keep each other safe, to keep our families safe and to keep a healthy and safe working environment.

Stay safe and Healthy,

The Wellness Team

Patrick Cumbo, Dave Dickhout, Flora DiCarlo