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# AM ETFO INFO

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## Inclement Weather Special Edition

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### System Memo

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AMETFO advocated for the drafting and release of a system memo prior to the new procedures for inclement weather being implemented.

This advice went unheeded.

### Power or Internet Outage

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During the shut down on December 1st, AMETFO asked, if there is a power or internet outage and a member cannot access google classroom, what is the expected procedure and do members need to enter it into SmartFind?

We have been advised that the Board will be reviewing this scenario.

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## Synchronous Learning: Not Just Google Meet

The board's expectation is that teachers will "connect with the whole class for the purposes of instruction".

***The ministry does not define the specific tools or methods that must be used in order for learning to occur synchronously.*** Members should use their professional judgement to guide the manner in which they connect synchronously with their students. As always, your professional judgement is informed by your ongoing learning and reflection, your knowledge of your students, and of the subject matter you are teaching.

In PPM 164, the Ministry defines synchronous learning as, "Learning that happens in real time. Synchronous learning involves ***using text, video, or voice communication*** in a way that enables educators and other members of the school- or board-based team to instruct and connect with students in real time."

## **Snow Day Learning: Survey Results**

Thank you to our members, who overwhelmingly responded to our snow day survey. 433 of you shared your experience on the snow day with us. Here is what you said:

- ◆ Student attendance is very poor. If the day's original planning is followed, students will be behind. Lessons then need retaught once back at school.
- ◆ Even our remote learning school saw a drop in attendance, and parent feedback that they wanted their children to have a snow day.
- ◆ Of the students that are taught by the teachers who responded, only 39% logged on at some point in the day. Most of these did not engage synchronously, nor submit work.
- ◆ Many board issued iPads are too old, or are too broken to be useful.
- ◆ iPads are excellent classroom documentation tools. They cannot effectively run Google Classroom for more complex online learning tasks. You cannot switch between class material and a Google Meet using an iPad.
- ◆ Members who have board issued laptops often do not bring them home because they are connected to Smartboards and if an OT is required they would be without the necessary tech.

We are bringing these issues to the attention of the Board.

## **Technology Guidance**

If schools are closed to students, but open to staff, members have the option of working from home or working from school. If members choose to work from home, they will not have access to board wifi, and may not have access to board technology. Members making this choice may need to use personal wifi or technology.

In the case of a system shut down, members can not be required to use personal technology or wifi in order to complete work tasks. Nor can members be required to travel to other locations such as public libraries in order to access sufficient wifi. Members are expected to continue to work during their regular working day as the circumstances allow. Members should contact their administration and inform them of any barriers they have or may experience due to a system shut down.

*In all cases members should complete tasks, guided by their professional judgement, and in the manner the technology provided to them by their employer is capable.* If the provided devices cannot run Google Classroom, Google Meet, or other apps, members are not required to substitute their personal device.



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The Avon Maitland Teachers' Local is the union local in the Huron Perth area for the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. The Avon Maitland Teachers' Local represents all of the 650 full and part time elementary teachers employed by the Avon Maitland District School Board.

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## SmartFind

Members are questioning why they must enter a weather day when they are working remotely and did not make the decision to take a weather day. This is a system issue and should not be another task members must complete while suddenly pivoting to online learning.

The Board's response was "Staff are being requested to enter a weather day into SmartFind as they are still working, but working from home."

AMETFO advises members to follow past practice for the entry of absences into SmartFind when they are responsible for changing the nature of the day (from a work day to sick leave, special leave, weather). If the member is not responsible for changing the nature of the day (system wide weather day), the member is not responsible for entering the absence into SmartFind.

## Sick (Leave) Days

The Board has determined that, if members have booked the day off work, the day will remain coded that way and cannot be changed.

\*\*\*AMETFO advises members to follow past practice for the use of a sick day. Day plans should be provided to your OT or if no OT is scheduled, your administrator. Members should not feel obligated to check in or post on Google Classroom. It is an administrator's duty to inform classes/families regarding OTs and synchronous/asynchronous learning.

It is AMETFO's expectation that member privacy will be protected in these communications.