

# Peel Secondary Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit

6435 Edward's Blvd, Suite 102, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2P7 Tel: 416 998 2813  
Robert.Wightman@otbu-osstfd19.ca



## From the Services Canada website on Employment Insurance and Covid 19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

### Employment Insurance

Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits provide up to 15 weeks of income replacement and is available to eligible claimants who are unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine, to allow them time to restore their health and return to work. Canadians quarantined can apply for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits.

If you are eligible, visit the [EI sickness benefits](#) page to apply.

Service Canada is ready to support Canadians affected by COVID-19 and placed in quarantine, with the following support actions:

- The one-week waiting period for [EI sickness benefits](#) will be waived for new claimants who are quarantined so they can be paid for the first week of their claim.
- Establishing a new dedicated toll-free phone number to support enquiries related to waiving the [EI sickness benefits](#) waiting period.
- Priority EI application processing for EI sickness claims for clients under quarantine.

Contact the new dedicated toll-free phone number if you are in quarantine and seeking to waive the one-week [EI sickness benefits](#) waiting period so you can be paid for the first week of your claim:

- Telephone: 1-833-381-2725 (toll-free)
- Teletypewriter (TTY): 1-800-529-3742

If you are experiencing symptoms such as cough, fever, difficulty breathing or you are in self-isolation or quarantine, do not visit or enter any Service Canada office. As an alternative, you may access our services online or by calling 1 800 O-Canada.

### From the Provincial Office of OSSTF:

Pursuant to Minister Lecce's announcement with regards to closing of schools until April 6 2020, a phone conference was held with the unions representing workers in the education system. An Assistant Deputy Minister has shared the following information:

- All schools will be closed, and contract workers will be paid
- The closure does not necessarily apply to childcare centres and the Ministry is still awaiting guidance on that issue
- School based childcare centres housed in schools will be a local School Board decision, including the before and after school programs

# Peel Secondary Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit

6435 Edward's Blvd, Suite 102, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2P7 Tel: 416 998 2813  
Robert.Wightman@otbu-osstfd19.ca



- LTO's and long-term casual education workers who had been scheduled to work during the two weeks will be paid
- There was no clarity or commitment for daily occasional teachers and daily casual education workers
- Board Administration office closures will be a local School Board decision
- Whether or not individual employees are called into work will be a Board by Board decision and the government mentioned cleaning and custodial staff in particular but not exclusively
- The status of staff normally laid off during March break and normally recalled is unclear
- The impact on the status of the school year is unknown

Please note that we are simply relaying verbal information provided to us over the phone. We have requested further clarification and information in writing, including what is being shared with employers. We will send further information as it becomes available.

If I hear anything different, I will let you know but it looks like OTs will need to go onto Services Canada website and sign up for EI.

Robert Wightman  
OTBU-OSSTF D19 President  
416 998 2813