

## Ontario's COVID-19 School Screening Tool

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Brad Bennett, Associate General Secretary – Protective Services

### For Information

Employers are providing a variety of self-assessment tools for OSSTF/FEESO members to use to determine whether or not they should attend work. In general, self-assessment tools are reasonably consistent in the results that they produce. Most employers are identifying the specific tool that their employees are to use to self-assess on a daily basis.

Recent concerns have come forward regarding the Ontario government's COVID-19 school screening tool, which can be accessed online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. The tool is specifically designed to assess three categories of people: students; employees; and visitors. Concerns have been raised with respect to the tool's assessment of employees. When employees use the online version of the tool, it does not ask if there is anyone in their household who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Because of this, it gives no advice with respect to what an employee who is self-assessing using the tool should do in such a situation. However, if another person assessing themselves using the tool receives a result instructing them to self-isolate and get tested, the result includes the advice that others in the household should consult with their Public Health Unit for instructions regarding attendance at work. In other words, the tool relies on those who are flagged with symptoms to tell others in their household to contact their Public Health Unit.

Because of this flaw in the COVID-19 school screening tool, OSSTF/FEESO members who are using this tool to self-assess should use the tool to assess all members of their household daily, in order to receive fulsome advice on whether or not they should be attending work. If the results for any member of the household advises that household members contact their Public Health Unit to determine whether or not to attend work, members should follow that advice.

If you have any questions about this D/BU, please contact Bob Fisher at [bob.fisher@osstf.ca](mailto:bob.fisher@osstf.ca)

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