



January 2021

RETTA REPORT - FAQs

On behalf of the entire RETTA Executive, please know that we all hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this time. Below is a current list of **Frequently Asked Questions** that we are receiving at the RETTA office.

Please forward any comments or questions to cdarazsi@retta.ca.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Because of a reduction in expenditures (due to the pandemic) the RETTA council approved a motion in December to reduce the RETTA membership fee from **\$15.50/month to \$5/month** beginning this month through to the end of this school year.
- Teachers have **FREE** access to the following wellness apps.
 - Meditation and sleep app [Ten Percent Happier](#).
 - Meditation app [Headspace](#).
- MTS holds an **AGM** every year. All RETTA members are invited to put their name forward as a delegate. For more information, please contact Kirsten at kmundle@retta.ca.

SICK DAYS

What should I do if I was docked sick days because I had to isolate myself at home as a close contact?

The position of RETTA and MTS is that sick days should be used only when a teacher is actually sick. If a teacher is isolating but is not sick, arrangements should be made to work from home. Contact an MTS Staff Officer if this is not the case. ***Please note that, other than prepping for your substitute as you usually would, you are not required to work or perform duties associated with your role if you are using sick days.

What happens when I run out of sick days?

If you are concerned about running out of sick days or have run out of sick days, you can contact Mark Bruce at mbruce@retsd.mb.ca or the RETTA office.

Workplace Safety & Health

I have many concerns surrounding COVID-19 and my worksite safety (K-3 students not wearing masks, working at school while Winnipeg is in Code Red, etc.). What can I do to voice my concerns?

With any WSH concern, the first step is always to report it to your supervisor. If your concern is not resolved and the problem for you persists, then the second step is to [file a workplace safety/incident report](#).

It is important to follow the reporting protocol for many different reasons. [Here is a guide](#) on what and how to report. Also, you can always contact Kirsten directly at kmundle@retta.ca if you have questions.

Have there been any Safe Work Procedures Established for cold weather outdoor instruction?

Yes! A Safe Work Procedure (SWP) has recently been created for all teachers who are participating in outdoor instruction. The SWP 196- Cold Weather Outdoor Instruction can be found [here](#).

WELLNESS

What supports are available for Wellness?

- MTS offers a free, confidential counselling service through the [Educator Assistance Program](#) (EAP).
 - Members also have access to their [Bluecross Benefits plan](#), which now includes **counselling coverage**.
 - [LifeSpeak](#) is a digital wellness platform available to all members and families registered for My Profile on the MTS website. LifeSpeak provides access to 800 vignettes in French and English on a variety of Health/Financial/career-related topics written and hosted by Nationally recognized experts.
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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The RETTA website has current updates regarding collective bargaining [here](#).

COMMUNICATION

Manitoba Teachers Society

The MTS updates its [website](#) and social media daily with the latest information in public education.

Is there anything that I can do to make my voice heard?

Yes. You can [contact your local MLA](#). If you have anything, you'd like to bring to the attention of your local MLA, for example, the fact that school divisions still have not been given access to the federal COVID relief funding that was allocated for education. [Here is a guide to help with your letter](#).

****Remember that you represent yourself as an individual, not teachers in general****

