

CONSIDERATIONS FOR REFUSING UNSAFE WORK (COVID-19)

What Can Be Refused?

A worker can refuse to do any work where there is a reason to believe that:

- a) the equipment, machine, device or thing the worker is to use or operate is likely to endanger themselves or another worker.
 - Personal Protective Equipment – is the PPE insufficient? The new variants are aerosol and not just droplets (see www.ETFO-UCL.ON.CA website under COVID – Lancet article) . Should you require an N95 mask?
 - Have you been properly trained on the use of the PPE?
 - Are people around you required/able to wear masks?

- b) the equipment, machine, device or thing the worker is to use or operate or the physical condition of the workplace, contravenes the *OHSA* or regulations and is likely to endanger themselves or another worker.
 - What are the statistics for your area? See www.ETFO-UCL.ON.CA website under COVID for the site that will help you determine this (esp. see OHCOW website listed)
 - What are the statistics for your worksite? Past/current COVID cases?

- c) the physical condition of the workplace is likely to endanger themselves or another worker.
 - Is there proper ventilation? Can windows be opened? Is there an air purifier in your classroom?

It is possible that you might need an accommodation or to use sick days depending on your own personal health situation.

IN ALL CASES ENSURE YOU CONTACT THE LOCAL BEFORE REFUSING UNSAFE WORK