



## NEWS

## Health units urged to delay elementary students' Jan. 11 return to school

Elementary teachers' union says sending students, teachers and education workers back to school while the province is locked for another two to three weeks doesn't make sense

By [Catherine Whitnall](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week  
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Ontario's elementary teachers' union is calling on health units to do what the provincial government has not; prioritize community health and safety over politics and not have students return to in-class learning on Monday (Jan. 11).

"Educators know that in-person learning provides the most effective and equitable learning environment, but unfortunately we are at the height of this pandemic. It makes no sense for the government to send students, teachers and education workers back to school while the province is locked for another two to three weeks," stated Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario president Sam Hammond. "Despite repeated calls for adequate safety measures, the government has refused to implement them in a misguided effort to save money, jeopardizing