



Memorandum

The Alberta Teachers' Association

INFORMATION AND ACTION MEMO

Date 2021 01 28

To Convention Association Secretaries

From Daniel W Maas, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development

Re Clarification on Travel During Convention

Questions are being asked by members about travelling away from their homes during online teachers' conventions. With the current public scrutiny around non-essential travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association advises members to protect themselves by participating from home. Teachers are reminded of their professional obligations to participate fully during their assigned teacher's convention.

On 2021 01 13, the [ATA - COVID-19 FAQs \(teachers.ab.ca\)](https://www.teachers.ab.ca/ATA-FAQs) were updated with additional frequently asked questions:

Q: If a teacher travels outside the country, would the mandatory 14-day isolation requirement for international travellers be considered unpaid leave when they return?

A: Yes, the leave would be unpaid leave.

Some teachers have additional days off during their convention week and are considering leaving the province and attending convention virtually from their location.

If teachers leave the country, they need to isolate for 14 days upon their return. The days missed would be unpaid leave.

The current international travel restrictions indicate that there is an "official global travel advisory in effect". Albertans should follow all travel advisories.

This advisory means:

- Avoid all non-essential travel outside Canada and all cruise ship travel.

Returning travellers must:

- within 72 hours of their return to Canada, secure a negative PCR Covid test;
- follow mandatory 14-day isolation requirements for international travellers;
- check recent domestic and international flights for confirmed cases; and

- monitor for symptoms.

Responsible travel within Alberta continues to be permitted, including to second homes, vacation homes, hotel/commercial accommodations, campgrounds, and national and provincial parks.

Non-essential travel outside the province is not recommended. This recommendation will not be lifted until Stage 3 of Alberta's relaunch strategy.

While there is an International Border Testing Pilot Program currently in effect for those international travellers arriving directly into Calgary, teachers are still restricted from returning to work for, at minimum, an additional 7 to 9 days. Teachers need a follow up COVID test on day 6 or 7 following their return to Canada and must await these results prior to returning to work ([International Border Testing Pilot Program | Alberta.ca](#)).

For specific questions pertaining to collective agreement clauses related to teachers' conventions or convention attendance recommendations, please contact a duty officer in Teacher Employment Services by calling Barnett House toll free at 1-800-232-7208.