

**Top 5 Things TFFR wants  
Active Members, Retirees, and Employers to Know**

With all the concerns today regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public health, the last thing ND teachers and administrators should have to worry about is their pension plan. **During these uncertain times, TFFR wants you to know we remain committed to providing excellent customer service to our valued members and employers.**

**1) TFFR program operations are fully functional.**

Our office is closed to the public and many of our staff are working remotely. Retirement administration functions will primarily be delivered by electronic means through email ([rio@nd.gov](mailto:rio@nd.gov)) or phone (800-952-2970 or 701-328-9885). We will continue to administer critical retirement program operations, claims processing, account maintenance, employer reporting, and retiree payroll functions. No in-person member appointments or outreach programs are being scheduled until further notice. Please sign up for [TFFR Member Online](#) to view your personal member account information.

**2) Retiree benefits will be paid as scheduled.**

Monthly TFFR retirement benefit payments to almost 9,000 retirees and beneficiaries will go out on April 1, and every month thereafter as promised. Nearly all of TFFR monthly benefit payments are directly deposited into retiree bank accounts. The few paper checks that go out each month will be mailed as scheduled. TFFR will continue to be able to meet its obligation to retirees, despite the economic downturn.

**3) New retirement claims are being processed.**

If you haven't done so already, teachers and administrators retiring in 2020 should submit your TFFR retirement application and documentation. Please be reminded that TFFR is a defined benefit pension plan which means your benefit is based on a formula defined in state law. Your benefit will be paid to you and/or your beneficiary for life depending on the option you select. It will not be reduced as a result of the market downturn.

TFFR continues to process spring 2020 retirement applications. However, if your last date of employment will be different than what you have previously provided our office, please let us know (email or phone). If processing delays occur, benefits will be paid retroactive to a member's retirement date. Priority will be given to members who plan to retire this spring; other requests for information will be responded to as time permits.

**4) School districts should continue submitting TFFR reports and payments.**

Employers should continue monthly reporting of member salaries, contributions, and hours employed to ensure accurate retirement records and benefit calculations. However, due to COVID-19 school closings and reduced staffing capabilities, TFFR penalties for late employer reporting will be waived. Please communicate with our office as needed (email or phone).

**5) TFFR is a long term investor.**

A long term focus is important in financing pensions. Although the financial markets are in turmoil, TFFR's investment portfolio is professionally managed and highly diversified to help mitigate significant market downturns and extreme volatility. With that said, TFFR's estimated fiscal year-to-date net investment return is approximately -10% as of this date (7.1.19 – 3.24.20). Unfortunately, it is too early to assess the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the long-term financial health of the plan. Please be assured our investment team is closely monitoring the financial markets and TFFR's investment portfolio.

**Thank you for your patience. Please contact TFFR if you have any questions.  
Email [rio@nd.gov](mailto:rio@nd.gov) or Phone 800-952-2970 or 701-328-9885.**