



5210: Response to Suicidal Risk (AP)

Approved: 10 23 2023

According to Policy 510 – Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools, a caring school is one in which members of the school community feel a sense of belonging, and have opportunities to relate to one another in positive, supportive ways. All aspects of school life embrace and reflect diversity. The school is an inviting place for students, staff, parents and visitors.

The Board recognizes that school staff will, from time to time, become aware or receive reports of students experiencing distressing thoughts and feelings of inability to cope, hopelessness, or presenting risk of suicide. The experience of students with this kind of distress can and may have varying degrees of intensity and risk. When staff encounter a student reporting these experiences, the Board expects school staff to firstly provide immediate support of the student, and secondly, to follow the procedures outlined below to ensure support and the safety of the student.

1.0 RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AT RISK

1.1 Generally, school staff will become aware of students who may be at risk of suicide from

- i) report(s) by student themselves, concerned friends/peers or parents
- ii) observation by teachers or counsellors
- iii) contact with community agencies and/or hospital staff

1.2 When school staff becomes aware, the staff member supports the student by connecting the student with the school counsellor, mental health worker or youth care worker. Staff in these positions have additional training to support students who may be at risk of suicide and are equipped to complete the SD70 Risk Screener.

1.3 Counsellor, mental health worker or youth care worker is to complete the SD70 Risk Screener, to determine level of risk.

2.0 PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN CONCERN ABOUT A STUDENT WELL-BEING ARISE

2.1 School staff will provide immediate support from counsellor, mental health worker or youth care worker.

2.2 When a counsellor, mental health, or youth care worker discerns a student's well-being is at risk, they will complete the SD70 Risk Screener, to determine if level of risk is imminent. It is important for the individual completing the SD7 Risk Screener to be mindful of the fluidity of suicidal ideation and seek consultation with the Principal if indicators of risk in the screener demonstrate potential threat to others.



2.3 School Staff will adhere to the Duty to Report guidelines, as set out by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. If the level of risk is assessed as moderate to high, parent/legal guardian will be notified immediately.

2.4 The counsellor, mental health worker, youth care worker will reach out to known and already student-connected community agencies and/or the family doctor may be contacted for immediate assistance or referral. In the absence of an existing connection with community service agencies, a referral will be made. In the event of the unavailability of the above, the RCMP or BC Ambulance Service may be contacted to assist in the transportation of the student to the emergency ward of the local hospital.

2.5 The staff completing the SD70 Risk Screener will consult with the Manager of Mental Health and Wellness around the completed screener and submit an Assessor Report.

2.6 School staff will follow up and continue to provide in-school support to the student, the family and the referral agency.

3.0 NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS

3.1 When a Risk Screener is completed in an elementary school, /parent/guardians and principal will be informed.

3.2 When a Risk Screener is completed in a High School or in Alternate School, trusted adult/parent/guardian and principal will be informed when screener indicated level of risk is moderate to high/imminent.

3.3 The principal must notify parents or guardians when there is reason to believe a student is high/imminent risk of suicide (see 3.2)

3.4 The only exception to 3.1 and 3.2 is when there is reason to believe the student is at risk of suicide because of abuse or neglect at home. In such cases, the counsellor/mental health/youth care worker or principal shall notify the Ministry for Children and Family Development who shall accept the responsibility of notification of parents or guardians.

4.0 COMMUNITY AGENCIES APPROVED FOR REFERRAL

4.1 The Manager of Mental Health and Wellness shall be requested in August of each year to approve a list of community agencies deemed suitable to receive referrals of potential students at risk of suicide.

4.2 The Manager of Mental Health and Wellness will keep an up-to-date Community Resources Manual that will include current community agencies and services that are suitable to receive referrals regarding students at risk of suicide.



References

[510safecaringandorderlyschools.6acfaf1083.pdf \(sd70.bc.ca\)](#)

[5210suicidalprotectionprocedures.f3cecd1023.pdf \(sd70.bc.ca\)](#)

[5017cybersafety.02d2e41017.pdf \(sd70.bc.ca\)](#)

[5010weapons.94b30e1010.pdf \(sd70.bc.ca\)](#)

[5013pupilinvolvementwithillegaldrugsandalcohol.da54221013.pdf \(sd70.bc.ca\)](#)

[The B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect: For Service Providers \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)