



Responding to a suicidal or potentially suicidal student
Refer to Procedure # APE033

Active Suicide Attempt

Potential Suicide Concern

Student engages in an active suicide attempt. Remain calm.

School staff becomes aware of a student with suicidal thoughts **AND** further explores situation.

Principal or designate is notified as soon as possible and contacts parent/guardian directly .

Principal or designate is notified as soon as possible and continues to be involved in process.

Guide student to a quiet area if safe to do so or clear area of other students if more appropriate.

A safeTALK or ASIST trained school staff connects with student to *Ask, Listen, Keep Safe, Connect*

Call 911

Student is cooperative and **clearly** indicates “**NO**” when asked directly if they have a suicidal plan.

No

Contact parent/guardian to recommend **immediate** follow-up with **NEOFACS mobile crisis** 705-360-7100 *School staff can help facilitate this process.
***Exception:** Parent confirms alternate crisis assessment will be accessed: Primary Care Provider/ ER, Clinic. *Advise that a school designate will follow-up. Obtain consent.
Child under 16: If parent/guardian refuses or is unavailable, school initiates call to NEOFACS.

School staff remains with student, provides supportive and empathetic listening until EMS arrives.

Student identifies coping skills and supports in a *Student Action Plan/Be Safe*.

No

No

Contact parent and inform.
**Parent/guardian/student can always opt to seek further services at any time.*

Documentation: 1. Complete a Student Risk Management Review form. A copy remains with principal or designate and a copy is forwarded to Supervisor of Mental Health and Wellness (kmcentee@ncdsb.on.ca); 2. Debrief; 3. Notify Superintendent (active attempts).

Transition Back to School or Class: 1. MHAN in place to help with transition from hospital to school (if occurred); 2. Student, MHAN, Parent/guardian meet with principal or designate (ideal/when possible); 3. Student identifies supports in a Student Action Plan/Be Safe unless an agency plan already exists.

EXPLORE

ACTIONS

giving away possessions
Withdrawal (family, friends, school, work)
Loss of interest in sport and leisure
Misuse of alcohol, drugs
Impulsive/reckless behaviour
Self-mutilation
Extreme behaviour changes
Prior suicidal behaviour

PHYSICAL

Lack of interest in appearance
Disturbed sleep
Change/loss of appetite, weight
Physical health complaints

WORDS

“All of my problems will end soon.”
“No one can do anything to help me now.”
“Now I know what they were going through.”
“I just can’t take it anymore.”
“I am a burden to everyone.”
“I can’t do anything right.”
“I just can’t think straight anymore.”

FEELINGS

Desperate
Angry
Guilty
Worthless
Lonely
Sad
Hopeless
Helpless
Disconnected

PERSON WITH THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE

safeTALK

Tell Ask Listen KeepSafe

PERSON WHO WANTS TO HELP

INVITATIONS

Tell

as clearly and directly as possible

Ask

When someone is [INVITATIONS], they are sometimes thinking about suicide. Are you thinking about suicide?

Listen

Let’s TALK about this. I am Listening.
... This is important.

KeepSafe

We need extra help. I want to connect you with someone who can help you KeepSafe.