

*Approved by K-12 Board action #09-54, November 1, 2009*

For the protection of staff and students in the event of wide spread infectious diseases and declared pandemics.

**The Office of Education requires:**

1. That each local school operating board create an Infectious Disease and Pandemic Response Plan.
2. That each local school establish a working relationship with the local Medical Health Officer.
3. That each local school's response planning and communications are consistent with the wording and procedures used by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the local Medical Health Officer.

**The Local School will:**

1. Pass a local response plan for responding to pandemics as well as localized outbreaks of infectious diseases.
2. Designate an alternate representative to communicate with the local Public Health Officer in the event of their own illness.
3. Establish a working relationship with the local health officials. Local schools will follow local Medical Health Officer's guidelines relating to reporting of absenteeism and public health procedures.
4. Provide appropriate education for staff, parents and students regarding the best practices in preventing and reducing the transmission of illness.
5. Implement recommended guidelines for hygienic procedures as advocated by the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and/or the local Medical Health Officer.

**School Closures:**

1. School closures will only take place under the direction of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and/or the local Medical Health Officer and in consultation with the SDABC Office of Education.

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Use in conjunction with the SDABC Infectious Disease and Pandemic Response Plan Template