

Ministry of Education

9th Floor
315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation

9e étage
315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

Date: August , 2021

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division
Ministry of Education

Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division
Ministry of the Solicitor General

Subject: Emergency and Crisis Response in the 2021-22 School Year

The safety of students and staff in the education system remains a top priority for the Ministry of Education. As there continues to be a risk of COVID-19 transmission, it is important when planning for the 2021-22 school year, procedures for conducting emergency and crisis response drills (e.g., lockdown, secure and hold, shelter in place) be aligned with current provincial and local public health guidance and the Ministry of Education's [COVID19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools \(2021-22\)](#).

As outlined in The Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Board Protocol ("the Protocol"), all elementary and secondary schools in Ontario are required to work with their local police service to develop and implement lockdown and bomb threat procedures.

To support school safety, the Ministry of Education has collaborated with the Ministry of the Solicitor General to develop the attached Guidance Document. It is designed to assist boards and local police services to maintain Emergency and Crisis Response plans that are in compliance with mandatory requirements outlined in the Protocol, while the risk of COVID-19 transmission continues. Any updates to a school's Emergency and Crisis Response plan should be fully communicated to members of the school community, the local police service and the local fire department.

Should you have any questions about the Guidance Document, please contact Dianne Persaud, Manager, Safe Schools Unit at Dianne.Persaud@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Original signed by

Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment

C: Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Secrétaire, le Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance Division
Julia Danos, Executive Lead, Education Reopening Secretariat