

FORT LA BOSSE SUICIDE REDUCTION PROTOCOL

PREVENTION

- Programming & direction provided in MIND Your Health Division Protocol
 - ✓ Social and Physical Environment
 - ✓ Teaching and Learning
 - ✓ Healthy School Policy
 - ✓ Partnerships and Services
- Student Services Personnel:
 - ✓ resource teacher
 - ✓ school counselor
 - ✓ student support worker
 - ✓ division psychologist
- Community Service Providers:
 - ✓ PMH Child & Adolescent Mental Health Worker
 - ✓ PMH Adult Mental Health Worker
 - ✓ PMH Public Health Nurse
 - ✓ Family Physician
 - ✓ Emergency at local hospital
 - ✓ Elders
 - ✓ Clergy

AT RISK OF SUICIDE

In the event that a staff member has reason to believe that a student may be suicidal, the following actions are to be taken:

- Take all comments about suicide seriously, especially if details of a suicide plan are shared
- *Immediately* report concerns to one of the following who is most immediately available: school administrator (or designate), ASIST trained personnel within the building, the resource teacher, Student Support Worker, or Student Services Coordinator.
- No untrained person is to assess the severity of suicidal risk; all assessments of threats, attempts or other risk factors must be left to the appropriate professionals
- If the student is in the school, ensure they are immediately placed under adult supervision and not allowed to leave the school.
- The site based person (or most immediately available) with training and an adult with a positive relationship with the student will interview the student on the day of the report to

determine the extent of suicidal thinking, the potential plan of suicide, the lethality of the plan and the history of the student's suicidal thinking and attempts.

- Where risk is imminent, ensure safety for the student by continuing to provide adult supervision.
- Those immediately involved may consult with other staff not initially involved or discuss the case with external professionals (eg. Physician, mental health worker, etc.) who may have prior involvement with the student.
- Plans may include:
 - ✓ No further involvement beyond documentation of the incident
 - ✓ Monitoring by a specific staff member
 - ✓ Referral for follow-up within the school setting or with external support personnel
 - ✓ Asking parents/guardians to immediately come to the school to be a part of planning process
- ***PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST ALWAYS BE CONTACTED REGARDLESS OF THE PLANS DETERMINED***
- Students will always be included in development of a safety plan

SCHOOL RE-ENTRY FOR A STUDENT WHO HAS ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

- Make the student's return to school as seamless as possible
- Because a student who attempted suicide is often at greater risk for suicide in the months following the crisis, it is extremely important to monitor his or her re-entry into school and to maintain close contact with parents/guardians/caregivers and other supports working with the student.
- Whenever possible, obtain a written release of information signed by the parent/guardian.
- Inform the student's teachers on a need to know basis of the number of days the student may be expected to be away from school.
- Request that teachers provide students with essential assignments to be completed as appropriate.
- Maintain a positive connection between the most appropriate staff person and the student.
- Keep students informed of school news and developments as appropriate.

- Wherever possible designated staff person will communicate with the student's external care team to learn of recommendations that may be implemented in the school environment and share those as appropriate with school division personnel.
- Designated staff person will maintain regular contact with him/her. Individuals supporting the student within school environment will clearly communicate their roles to the student and to one another.
- Designated staff person will maintain contact with the parent/guardian to provide updated information as appropriate/agreed upon at the time of re - entry.

POSTVENTION

- **Verify Suicide**
 - ✓ School principal or division level administrator confirm suicide
 - ✓ Facts must be confirmed to work effectively with staff, students, parents, and community support personnel to plan for the safety and emotional well being of those impacted
- **Notify**
 - ✓ Superintendent
 - ✓ Trauma Response Coordinator for School Division
- **Response**
 - ✓ Follow steps outlined by Fort la Bosse Trauma Response which include but are not limited to:
 - Determine factual information
 - Enlist support of community services as needed
 - Provide consistent notice to school staff
 - Provide information & support to students as appropriate
 - Provide consistent, written information to parents
 - Identify community supports to parents & students
 - Participate in memorial as appropriate
 - Debrief postvention response
 - Follow up with students and staff who may be at risk