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Emergency Response Plans at NMS

While we hope our schools are never faced with an emergency situation, we are prepared to respond to an incident if one should occur. Hanover School Division (HSD) has taken steps to prepare our schools to deal effectively with emergency situations that may occur in, or around a school during the school day.

Staff and Students at NMS practice drills to ensure readiness in the event of an actual incident. While parents are not a part of school drills, we play an important part in ensuring our students are aware and understand the safety in practice drills. Once you review the information provided here, help your child understand the importance of practice drills and the safety in response plans.

HSD and our school communicate with parents in as timely a manner as the emergency unfolding allows. Be sure to stay tuned to emails, the HSD website and mass notification phone calls. The HSD website will update and communicate to parents who may not receive Twitter feeds, phone calls or emails. A faster, direct way to communicate with all parents at once. Shortcut, bookmark, or add this link to the home screen on your devices:

<https://hsd.ca/schools/emergency-preparedness/>

To understand what your NMS student will participate in at a high level, a brief overview of the drills and emergency evacuation policy is in the pages that follow. A more detailed overview for drills and evacuations are outlined in NMS' parent-student-student handbook.

<https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/parent-student-handbook/>



Drills and Emergency Evacuation

A total of ten fire drills, two lockdown drills and one Tornado drill will be practiced each school year to familiarize students with evacuation procedures. We ask students to follow the instructions from staff members. Evacuation routes are pre-assigned for each room. Students and staff are asked to move to the designated area and for fire drills well away from the building and the bus loop.

Teachers will stay with their class so that attendance can be taken quickly. Teachers and students do not re-enter the building until either the buzzer sounds or the signal to re-enter is received from school based administration.

In the event of an emergency:

- **Primary Relocation Site:** Word of Life (WOL) Mission Church 233 - 3rd Street South, Niverville, MB (204) 388-4800
- **Secondary Relocation Site:** Niverville Elementary School 181 Main Street, Niverville, MB (204) 388-4861
- **Primary Parent Receiving MUSTER POINT:** WOL Parking lot
- **Secondary Parent Receiving MUSTER POINT:** Niverville Elementary School (NES) Parking lot



Response Plans

NMS response plans can be requested for review at any time. Please contact our administration at nms@hsd.ca should you be interested in understanding the detailed steps taken in each of the categories below.

NMS Administration reviews the emergency response plan flip chart with Parent Council annually, and includes a response outline for the following emergency categories:

- Fire Alarm
- School Wide Evacuation
- Lockdown
- Hold and Secure
- Tornado/Severe Weather
- Medical Emergency
- Other Community Emergency/Utility Failure/Hazard

In order for our School Emergency Response Plans to be effective, we depend on the cooperation and assistance of many people, including the police, ambulance, fire departments, and parents/guardians. Many parents question when it is safe to head to the school in support of their students.

- **Hold and Secure** is used when it is necessary to secure a school because there is an emergency situation occurring outside the school. Classes may continue to function normally. The exterior doors are locked and monitored to allow students and staff to enter, but otherwise remain locked. Once inside, no one leaves the building. For example, an active police incident in a neighborhood would trigger a Hold and Secure.
- **Lockdown** is used to prevent intruders from entering occupied areas of a building or when it is necessary to isolate students and staff from a danger outside, or within the building. Situations include active shooters or dangerous intruders. Staff and students are restricted in their movements to a specific area which is then protected through locking of exterior and classroom doors and covering windows. There may be other areas of the school that are capable of being locked down and these may also be designated as lockdown locations.



Parent Do's and Don'ts

Although your natural instincts in an emergency may be to attend the school, please understand that doing so could impede emergency response services. Going to the school may interfere with emergency crews and school personnel's efforts to deal with the emergency. Extra vehicles and people at the site make the task more difficult.

As parents, we understand how hard it can be to resist our natural instincts; and trust the training and practice drills. The Divisional Crisis Team reviews each incident in the division after their involvement, and the lessons learned from those various incidents are shared for school and student benefits. We wish to reinforce the guidance from our Divisional Team, and summarize, IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY:

- Please do not call the school or your child's cell phone.
- Please do not go to the school to pick up your child – unless requested to do so.
- Be sure to access official and reliable sources of information.
- Be aware of standard emergency procedures in place for your child's school.