

		<h1>HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC</h1> <h2>District School Board</h2>
<h3>Infectious Disease Emergency</h3>		
Adopted:	October 22, 2007	Policy #: P 2.1.7.
Revised:	March 24, 2025	Policy Category: 2.1. School Operations

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes that, as a Catholic community of faith, we rely on our faith and each other to navigate crises such as infectious disease emergencies (e.g. pandemics). As we journey through challenging times, we call upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us through service, worship and prayer. We recognize that an infectious disease emergency may cause increased anxiety for individuals and the community and we turn to our faith to guide us as we strive to support and care for one another. Together we will acquire and utilize the appropriate knowledge and skills to ensure the well-being of students and staff is upheld.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is a policy of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (the Board) to respond to an infectious disease emergency (e.g. pandemic) in a strategic manner informed by the expert advice of public health officials. The Board acknowledges that there are emerging diseases that are not a pandemic for which this policy would address (example, a measles outbreak or an adverse water situation). Experts are certain that future infectious disease emergencies will occur; although, the timing and pattern is unpredictable. It is a policy of the Board that, when a public health emergency has been declared by the Medical Officer of Health, an Infectious Disease Response Team be created by the Director of Education to create a responsive and flexible plan that will endeavour to:

- Keep student and staff safety at the forefront
- Ensure continuity of learning
- Ensure continuity in faith formation and
- Follow direction from public health and the Ministry of Education.

It is a policy of the Board to consider enacting its State of Emergency Policy in the appropriate circumstance.

PROCEDURE:

1.0 Infectious Disease Response Team

The Board’s Infectious Disease Response Team (IDRT) shall be led by the Director of Education (or designate). The membership of the IDRT shall be determined by the Director of Education and may include representation from the following groups:

- Supervisory Officers

- Managers
- Health and Safety Officer
- Principals and
- Members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)

2.0 System-wide Infectious Disease Response Plans

All infectious disease response plans shall be created in consultation with Huron-Perth Public Health, the Ministry of Education, and the conterminous school board (i.e. Avon-Maitland District School Board). The plan shall apply to schools, sites and transportation. Some events may be restricted to just one school/site and may not be board wide. Given the wide array of infectious diseases the specificity of considerations (below) should be detailed in consultation with public health officials and health & safety experts in response to each circumstance that presents itself.

2.1 Elements to Consider

2.1.1 Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Guidelines

Training for Staff
 Education for Students
 Self Monitoring and Screening
 Hand Hygiene
 Physical Distancing
 Cohorting
 Isolation Rooms
 Traffic Control (designated entry and exit points)
 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 Hazard Elimination
 Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection
 High Touch Surfaces and Shared Items
 Other recommendations from public health

2.1.3 Case Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Daily Record Keeping and Reporting
 Case and contact management and exclusion as necessary

2.1.4 Communication

Staff
 Students, Caregivers and Community
 Signage

2.1.5 Teaching and Learning

Remote Learning (synchronous/asynchronous)
 In-Person Learning
 Blended Approaches (Remote/In-Person)
 Catholic Faith formation and opportunities for prayer
 Mental Health Supports

2.1.6 Integration with Emergency Procedures

Emergency Procedures Policy 2.1.6.
First Aid

A sample of the Board's Reopening Guidelines for the 2020 COVID-19 global pandemic is attached as Appendix A. This is intended to serve as a guide and present examples of the scope and type of considerations the board engaged in during an infectious disease emergency.

DEFINITIONS:

- N/A

REFERENCES:

- **Legal Basis for Direction:** The Medical Officer of Health determines the actions needed to be taken to protect the population from a communicable disease (Health Protection and Promotion Act 1990). The Medical Officer of Health has the authority to issue an order if she/he is of the opinion upon reasonable and probable grounds that a communicable disease exists or may exist or that there is an immediate risk of an outbreak.

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- Appendix A - Community Stakeholder School Reopening Guidelines 2020-2021