



Policy: Pandemic Action Plan

Pandemic Action Plan

This plan has been developed to assist administration and principals in preparing for and managing the impact of a health related emergency. With the existing threat of an influenza pandemic, the Board recognizes the need for preparedness. The plan was designed to provide for the continuity of instruction and the continued safety of staff and students, in the event of a pandemic or other health related emergency. In the event of an emergency, such as a flu pandemic, our schools and board office will be subject to higher than normal staff and student absenteeism, interruptions to transportation, and the closure of schools/board office.

This plan includes guidelines and steps each school/board office should take in the event of outbreak or threat of an outbreak. It will be subject to revisions pending wider research regarding ongoing events worldwide and nationally. This document therefore, is a working document that will be updated as needed.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified six phases of an influenza pandemic. Each phase reflects risk to human health. The Canadian and Ontario government is using the WHO pandemic phases to assess the risk in Canada. Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health will declare each phase using the WHO model. The Board will take appropriate action pending which phase we are in. In Administrative Procedure 319, Table 1 identifies and describes each pandemic period and phase. The world is presently in phase 3; a new influenza virus subtype is causing disease in humans, but it is not spreading efficiently and sustainably among humans.

The Ontario government predicts that 20 to 60% of the working population will be unable or unwilling to work for two to six weeks at the height of a severe pandemic wave. It is estimated that there will be several waves, lasting about eight weeks per wave.

Approval and Review Dates

Prior Date Approved: N/A

Revised Date Approved: N/A

Review Prior To: June, 2022

Reviewed by: Policy Committee, Administrative Council