

“Lockdown” Procedure and Practice Drills Questions & Answers

What is a “school lockdown”?

A lockdown is an emergency procedure designed to protect occupants from external harm or contain the movement of occupants when an intruder, or a restricted weapon, is present in the building. In a school lockdown, only emergency response teams from law enforcement will enter the school. A “lockdown” means that people must stay where they are and cannot leave until escorted outside by response personnel.

Are there different procedures depending upon the situation?

Yes. There are three different distinctions of “lockdown” that direct how a situation will be addressed:

Level 1 – The danger is present inside the school.

Level 2 – The threat is close to, but not inside the building

Level 3 – The risk is in the surrounding area.

How are school staff prepared to handle a lockdown situation?

School-based staff are trained in how to recognize and respond to all three lockdown scenarios.

Why do children have to practise a lockdown drill? Isn't that creating a stressful situation?

Particularly in emergency situations, we are all more confident, less anxious, and better able to cope when we know there is a plan in place. An essential part of the lockdown drill in our schools is for staff to lead conversations about the experience afterwards to reassure students and help them develop new coping and self-calming techniques for the future.

May I communicate with my child during a lockdown?

It's expected that many parents will feel an urgent need to contact their child in a lockdown situation. However, any sound from a cellphone can alert an active shooter to the presence of an individual or group, placing them, and everyone in their vicinity, at greater risk. For this reason, students and staff are not permitted to use cellphones during a lockdown situation.

Communications both in and out of a school under lockdown are restricted to law enforcement personnel and their designates—including school principals and school district senior administrators.

During a school lockdown, where can I learn more information?

Recognizing that telephone reception could quickly become overwhelmed by a high volume of calls in a lockdown situation, the School District will update its website as information is released to us through the R.C.M.P.