

Six Nations Federal Schools Inclement Weather Emergency School Closure Protocol

Protocol
SO-05-01

This document outlines the Inclement Weather Emergency School Closure Protocol for the Federal Schools.

1.0 Protocol Statement

1.1 A school may be closed for any number of reasons. However the most prevalent reason is an inclement weather event. Making a decision to close a school is a significant decision that affects many individuals. Public safety is paramount.

2.0 Authority

2.1 The Director of Federal Schools has the authority to close schools.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 The Principal in charge has the delegated authority to make a decision as to whether school closure is necessary. In the event of their unavailability, the Vice Principal will make the decision.

4.0 Inclement Weather

4.1 Busses will be cancelled during inclement weather days when forecasted weather and road conditions will not allow for the safe delivery of services during the morning and afternoon commute.

4.2 When student transportation services are cancelled due to inclement weather schools will be closed to all students and staff.

4.3 Extreme cold weather negatively impacts the operation of buses. Extreme cold weather is defined as -30 C without wind-chill or a high risk of frostbite for skin exposure of 10 minutes or less. Parents/guardians will be notified by 7:00am if busses are cancelled, however schools will remain open and students will need their own transportation to and from school.

5.0 Safety

5.1 Since determining safety under adverse weather conditions is subjective and difficult, parents/guardians will be reminded, prior to the autumn/winter seasonal weather change, that it is their responsibility to determine whether it is safe for their child(ren) to attend school on any given day. The bus company will determine whether the busses can safely run their usual routes. The Director of Federal Schools will determine whether the schools will open for classes.

6.0 Heat and Air Quality Advisories

6.1 At times during the year, Six Nations experiences days of extreme heat that can prompt Environment and Climate Change Canada to issue Heat Advisories. Temperature can pose a risk to student and staff. The principals have the responsibility to take appropriate action to maintain a comfortable learning environment.

6.2 During warmer temperatures, there are a number of actions staff can take to manage the heat and keep schools, classrooms and students as comfortable as possible, including:



- Using fans to provide air movement, where possible.
- Keeping lights and computers turned off, where possible.
- Keeping doors and windows open.
- Rotating staff and students into cooler areas, air conditioned areas or cooling centres within the school, where available.
- Encouraging students to drink water.
- Reducing strenuous activities, including gym and sports activities.

6.3 Air quality can also pose a risk to student and staff safety. When air quality is a concern, the Air Quality Health Index will be monitored for local conditions. Appropriate actions will be taken when local conditions warrant them.

7.0 Methods of Communication

7.1 Communication is key in alerting families to the status of school operations and busing. The following methods of communication may be used for sharing this important information.

- Radio: Jukasa and CKRZ Six Nations communication site;
- Social Media: FaceBook;
- School Communication Systems; and
- School Messenger Communicate app system will call, text message and email parents and guardians. Be aware that delays in email delivery can be caused by limitations of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) receiving our messages.

7.2 No messaging will be posted if schools remain open.

8.0 Bus Delays and Cancellations

8.1 Students are reminded to dress warmly on cold weather days.

8.2 School buses may be delayed causing your child to wait for the bus longer than usual.

8.3 The decision to close a school is based on current information available regarding road and weather conditions.

8.4 When bus transportation is cancelled for inclement weather, it is cancelled for the entire day and schools are closed.

8.5 When bus transportation is cancelled in the AM due to a condition that is anticipated to clear before the end of the school day, schools remain open and buses will do their regular run at the end of the day.

8.6 Students will enter the school immediately upon arrival in the morning when the temperature with or without wind chill reaches -15 degrees Celsius.

8.7 It is not an expectation that parents/guardians transport their children to school in the event of bus cancellations.

8.8 Parents/guardians who keep their children at home when buses are cancelled but schools are open MUST report this absence to the school.

8.9 If a student does not attend on days when bus transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, there will be no negative impact to their official attendance record.



9.0 Preventative Measures

9.1 Indoor Recess: Children must play indoors if the temperature falls below -15C, regardless of the windchill factor. This is the temperature at which exposed skin freezes in a few minutes.

9.2 Suitable Winter Clothing: Students are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. When students do not wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather, then a recess strategy must be determined to accommodate those students.

