

NAG 5—Health and Safety

Pandemic / Epidemic Policy

Rationale

In the event of a pandemic, Northern Health School must have procedures in place which will allow the school to provide as full a service as possible for as long as is safely possible consistent with Ministry of Education guidelines unless otherwise directed by health authorities.

Purpose

To ensure that NHS has developed procedures consistent with Ministry of Education guidelines to protect staff, students or children in the event of a pandemic or epidemic. The base document for these procedures will be Ministry of Education *Influenza pandemic planning guide for schools*; a copy of which will be held in each NHS unit.

Guidelines

- a) Where NHS units are situated in hospitals or schools, staff will follow the pandemic/epidemic procedures and protocols of the host institution.
- b) Any directive from any local or national health and/or education authority will be followed immediately by NHS staff.
- c) Teachers will cease home visiting, classroom teaching and hospital based teaching as set out in the School's procedure developed for the pandemic/epidemic situation.
- d) Individual NHS units will close if directed to do so by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health or the Board of Trustees.
- e) NHS staff will undertake appropriate social distancing measures as directed by relevant authorities.
- f) NHS units will resume home visiting, classroom teaching and hospital teaching when the Board of Trustees is advised it is safe to do so by the Ministries of Health and/or Education.

Adopted May 2020

Chairperson _____

Review Date May 2023