

# 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.
- 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 is advised it is safe to do so by the Ministries of Health and/or Education.

Adopted August 2023

Presiding Member \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date May 2026