

PROTOCOLS FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

BACKGROUND

In September 2020, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that requires all New York State public employers to adopt a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease. The new legislation will constitute New York State Labor Law [Section 27-c](#), and served as a response to the effects of the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020. In addition to 27-C, the following section was added to [2801-a of the Education Law](#) that required additions to the District Plan.

Education Law - 2801-a (m) - protocols for responding to a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease that are substantially consistent with the provisions of section twenty-seven-c of the labor law.

PROTOCOLS

1. In the event of a state-ordered reduction of the District’s in-person workforce, the following is a list of **essential** employees.

Essential Position or Title	Description	
Information Technology	Director of Technology & Technicians	Required to maintain internet capability including remote learning and working from home.
Custodial and Maintenance	Director, Head Custodian, Custodians, Maintenance Mechanics, Grounds	Required to maintain the cleanliness and continued functioning of the building & grounds.
Administration & Clerical Support	Superintendent, Asst. Supt’s, Directors & Clerical Support	Required to ensure continuity of the response efforts.
Building Administration & Clerical Support	Building Administrators & Clerical Support *	Required to ensure continuity of the response efforts.
Faculty and Staff	Teacher/Related Service Provider	Required to ensure continuity of services and in-person instruction for students.
Security	Security Coordinator & Security Assistants	Required to ensure the safety/security of the campuses.

Transportation	Director of Transportation and Support Staff	Required to transport food to students who receive home meals and/or to transport students in the event they are attending in person instruction.
Food Service	Food Service Director & Food Service Workers	Required to prepare and distribute meals to students.
Health Services	Director of Health Services and staff as deemed necessary	Required to assist with testing requirements, reporting and contact tracing.
Business Operations	Accounting, Payroll, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, etc.	Required where necessary to ensure the continued operation of the District.

2. To enable all non-essential employees and contractors to telecommute, District staff will be guided by the District Re-entry Plan contained within the Building-level Emergency Response Plans.

3. In an effort to reduce overcrowding on public transportation:

- Class schedules may be staggered in accordance with the cohort model identified in the District Re-entry Plan.
- In-person days may be staggered by cohorts/groups.
- The District will work with staff and students to determine the best modes/routes of transportation to campus.
- Staff may be required to arrive on campus prior to students in a staggered work shift or staggered assigned day of work.
- Essential employees will work on-site but may be permitted to rotate between working remotely and on-site.
- Contractors may not be permitted on campus during school hours.
- Visitors may not be permitted on campus during school hours.

4. Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be procured and stored:

- The Facilities Department will maintain an inventory of PPE in accordance with NYS Education Department guidelines, and continually restock same as needed.
- Storage of personal protective equipment will be on campus and comply with the manufacturer's storage recommendations for each item.
- PPE equipment will be readily available, if needed.

5. In the event an employee, student or contractor is exposed to a known case of a communicable disease that is subject to a public health emergency, exhibits symptoms of such disease, or tests positive for such disease, the District will respond as per the {*Infectious Disease Annex found in the Building Level Emergency Plans, section 25*} and/or the District's Re-entry Plan.

6. All essential employees and contractors will have their hours and work locations documented, including off-site visits, by:

• All entrances will be locked and monitored by security guards/greeters, where appropriate.

• All employees will use their access cards and/or sign in/sign out for entrance which will document their arrival on premises.

- Payroll, attendance, and/or timesheets will further document an employee's presence on campus.
- Contractors will sign in with the security guards/greeters, and their presence will be registered in the visitor log book or visitor management system.
- Non-essential visitors will not be allowed on site.

7. If emergency housing is needed the District will lodge an essential employee at a local hotel.

IDENTIFICATION OF DISTRICT RESOURCES WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR USE DURING AN EMERGENCY²⁴

District resources are available in each building and stored in a central location. Each building will designate a Command Post. The list, which is not meant to be inclusive, requires the following items:

- Copy of District-Wide School Safety Plan
- Building-level Emergency Plan
- Quick reference Emergency Management Procedures
- List of emergency telephone numbers
- Building floor plans
- Telephones
- Radio communications
- Weather radio
- Flashlights
- Photocopier
- Computer
- Student rosters
- List of individuals with special needs and specific evacuation plans
- Telephone numbers for parents/guardians Information about emergency needs (e.g. students/staff that require medications, vehicular transportation issues, etc.)
- School and staff census information

²⁴ 15.17(c)(1)(vii) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the identification of district resources which may be available for use during an emergency;

The District will, as appropriate, utilize all available manpower during an emergency. Within each building, schools may use the Staff All Call response protocol, that quickly summons all available staff members to a staging area for assignments. Coordination of available employees is typically performed by the Principal or their designee. Specific job duties will be assigned based on the type of emergency and in compliance with the appropriate district and building emergency response procedure. Additional district resources may be requested by any building administrator or designee as needed. The Superintendent or their designee will call in all available maintenance and custodial staff to provide support during an emergency as needed. Assistance from outside government agencies may also be requested. A specific list of available resources may be found in Appendix 4 of this plan.

PARTICIPATING IN UNIFIED COMMAND UNDER ICS PRINCIPLES

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A chain of command consistent with the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS) will be used in response to an emergency. Members of the School, Emergency Response Team, will be part of this system. In the event of an emergency, the response team will adopt NIMS/ICS principles based on the size, scope, and character of the emergency.

1. All administrators and Building-level Emergency Response Teams members shall complete the incident command training level one.
2. All District Emergency Response Team members shall complete incident command training level one and level two.

ICS POSITIONS

The number of ICS positions filled will be dependent upon the scope of the incident.

- **Incident Commander** – Responsible for the direction of the building response in a building-level emergency (Building Administrator/designee).
- **Public Information Officer** – Compiles and releases information to the news media.

²⁵ 155.17(c)(1)(viii) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of procedures to coordinate the use of school district resources and manpower during emergencies, including identification of the officials authorized to make decisions and of the staff members assigned to provide assistance during emergencies;

- **Safety Officer** – Monitors the response to prevent injuries from occurring to both those involved in the incident and those trying to resolve it.
- **Liaison** – Represents the District by working with responding agencies (law enforcement, fire department, EMS, utilities, etc.) and other school districts that may be involved in the incident.
- **Incident Log** – Keeps a written log of all incident events and updates appropriate command post personnel on significant developments.
- **Operations** – responsible for directing the implementation of action plans and strategies for incident resolution.
- **Logistics** – Responsible for providing all resources (personnel, equipment, facilities and services) required for incident resolution.
- **Planning/Intelligence** – Responsible for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating the information needed to measure the size, scope and seriousness of an incident and to plan a response.
- **Administration/Finance** – Responsible for all cost and financial matters related to the incident.

DISTRICT COMMAND POST (DCP):

Unless otherwise specified, The DCP will be located in the Central Administrative Offices. If necessary, the command post may be moved to an alternate site including the transportation facility and even non-district-owned buildings.

POTENTIAL ICS EMERGENCY SITES:

BUILDING:

Croton-Harmon Union Free School District
District Offices

Croton-Harmon Union Free School District
Transportation Office

Croton-Harmon High School

PVC Middle School

USES:

Command Center
Public Information Center
Communications Center

Alternate Command Center
Staging Area(s)

Shelter-in-Place
Staging Area(s)

Shelter-in-Place
Staging Area(s)

CET Elementary School

Hendrick Hudson CSD

Harmon Fire House

Shelter-in-Place

Staging Area(s)

Evacuation Site

Alt. Command Center

Alt. Public Information Ctr.

Alt. Communications Center

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SECTION IV COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

OBTAINING ASSISTANCE DURING EMERGENCIES FROM EMERGENCY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES²⁶

The district continues to work closely with local police, fire, EMS, and governmental agencies to obtain assistance during emergencies. Representatives helped in the development of this plan, have assisted in emergency drills, and provided technical assistance. Providers have given approval to the district to rely on local personnel, resources, and facilities in emergency situations.

2. The district maintains an updated list of local, county, and state agencies and personnel to contact to obtain assistance. The superintendent or their designee will initiate the contact when needed.

OBTAINING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE COUNTY OR CITY OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 2-B OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW²⁷

1. The district maintains an updated list of local and county emergency organizations, agencies, and government officials responsible for implementation of Article 2-B of the Executive Law. The superintendent and their designee will initiate the contact when needed.
2. The key officials in local government that can help to develop plans and assist in emergency situations as listed in emergency situations are listed in Appendix 4. Key government agencies are listed below:

1. Red Cross
2. Westchester County OEM
3. New York State Police
4. Westchester County Police Department
5. Croton Police Department
6. Croton Fire Department and Ambulance
7. Village of Croton Village Board

²⁶ 155.17(c)(1)(v) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of the arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local governmental agencies;

²⁷ 155.17(c)(1)(vi) except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of the arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local governmental agencies;

CONTACTING PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR PERSONS IN PARENTAL RELATION TO THE STUDENTS OF THE DISTRICT IN THE EVENT OF A VIOLENT INCIDENT OR AN EARLY DISMISSAL²⁸

In the event of violent incidents or crises, or an early dismissal of students, every effort will be made to notify parents. As soon as practical, the Superintendent or their designee shall activate the emergency notification system that will provide relevant information. Parental notification procedures for a student involved in disciplinary situations shall be consistent with the Code of Conduct and New York State law, and shall be presented clearly and concisely to staff and students each year.

When a student is involved in any violent situation, or an implied or direct threat of violence by such student against themselves, including suicide, parent or guardian shall be contacted as soon as practicable.²⁹ Administration shall utilize school mental health resources when necessary.

It is the responsibility of all parents and guardians to ensure that emergency contact information for students is always up-to-date and complete.

²⁸ 155.17(c)(1)(ix) policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal;

²⁹ 155.17(c)(1)(x) policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to an individual student of the district in the event of an implied or direct threat of violence by such student against themselves, which for the purposes of this subdivision shall include suicide;

SECTION V RECOVERY

Continuity of Operations

This district maintains continuity of operations at both the district and building-level to ensure that essential functions continue during an emergency and its immediate aftermath. Essential functions include business services (payroll and purchasing), communication (internal and external), computer and systems support, facilities maintenance, safety and security, and continuity of instruction. Specific continuity plans are contained within each Building-level Emergency Response Plan.

Continuity of Instruction

The District offers a suite of online instructional tools that can be used to support remote instruction and communication. General instructional tools for communicating with students include online services including:

- Google Drive with shared folders
- GSuite (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Classroom, Sites)
- Gmail
- Chromebooks
- eLearning

DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR BUILDINGS

When the Chief Emergency Officer is notified that an emergency exists, he/she will respond accordingly.

Members of the District Safety Team will assist as needed either at their respective Building Command Posts or by responding where directed by the Incident Commander(s). The District Safety Team will assign such other personnel as deemed necessary to meet the need of the situation.

The District Safety Team members will remain at their assigned posts until the Incident Commander(s) has determined that the emergency is over, or it is unsafe, or no longer necessary to remain, or need to relocate.

Should the incident involve a single building, at the discretion of the District Safety Team leader in consultation with that building's administrators and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT), other school buildings may be called to support the Building Emergency Response Team in that building.

Should the incident involve multiple buildings, at the discretion of the District Safety Team leader in consultation with building administrators, additional mental health support from the County Crisis Team and local area hospitals may be solicited to support the Emergency Response Teams in the affected building(s).

In any case, a “debriefing”, or post-incident analysis, will be facilitated by the District Safety Team. This process will include a review of the actual incident, the Team’s response to the incident, and post-traumatic incident debriefing.

District clinicians (or, mental health professionals from outside agencies if they have been involved) will provide ongoing as-needed support to the Team members, and will monitor post-traumatic stress symptoms in team members. As appropriate, team members may be provided with a referral to EAP and/or with information regarding private mental health providers in the area.

Principals) are expected to consult with the District Public Information Officer in composing letters to parents following any emergency. The District’s Public Information Officer will assist in sending mass communication messages to affected groups. The District’s Liaison Officer will communicate with outside agencies, such as the County Health Department, to provide necessary services following any emergency.

DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The District Liaison Officer will communicate with outside agencies, such as the County Health Department, to provide necessary mental health services following any emergency. District mental health providers may be temporarily reassigned to assist in the recovery process.

APPENDIX 1 - LISTING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

DISTRICT OFFICE

10 Gerstein Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Phone: 914-271-4713

CROTON-HARMON HIGH SCHOOL

36 Old Post Road South
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Laura Duba, Principal
Mark Maxam, Assistant Principal
Phone: 914-271-2140

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT MIDDLE SCHOOL

3 Glen Place
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Michael Plotkin, Principal
Lauren Scollins, Assistant Principal
Phone: 914-271-2191

CARRIE E. TOMPKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

8 Gerstein Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Kelly Maloney, Principal
Kerri Bianchi, Assistant Principal
Phone: 914-271-5184

APPENDIX 2 – BUILDING-LEVEL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

Due to the sensitive safety and security information contained in each Building-level Emergency Response Plan, these plans are confidential and not available for public dissemination. Copies of plans are maintained at each school building and the District office.

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APPENDIX 3 – MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Any applicable Memoranda of Understanding relevant to implementation of the District-wide and Building-level Emergency Response Plans are on file in the district office.

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APPENDIX 4 – DISTRICT RESOURCES – CONTACT INFORMATION

TITLE	NAME	OFFICE PHONE
Superintendent of Schools	Deborah O’Connell	914-271-4793
Asst. Superintendent	John Griffiths	914-271-6510
Asst. Superintendent for Business	Denise Harrington-Cohen	914-271-5022
Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum	John Griffiths	914-271-6510
Transportation Director	Rochelle O’Mara	914-271-4675
Director of Technology	Deborah August	914-271-3285
Medical Health Coordinator	Karen Gatto, Chairperson PPS	914-271-6675
District Clerk	Tracey Borges	914-271-4793
Director of Facilities	Paul Gibbons	914-271-6109
Assistant to Director of Buildings & Grounds	Sandra Rasulo	914-271-4716
Athletic Director	Michael Gulino	914-271-2147
Village Mayor	Brian Pugh	914-374-3960
Croton Fire Department	Chris Columbo	914-271-2693
Ambulance - Empress EMS	Phil Dinkler	914-862-1500
Westchester County		
County Executive	George Latimer	914-995-2900.
Emergency Management	John M. Cullen	914-231-1851
Public Safety Commissioner	Tom Gleason	914-995-2000
Red Cross Emergency Services	Stuart Bethel	914-946-6500 ext. 300

APPENDIX 5 – SECTION 155.17 REGULATION COMPLIANCE REFERENCE

- **155.17(b)(14)** District-wide school safety team means a district-wide team appointed by the board of education. The district-wide team shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of the school board, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel. At the discretion of the board of education, or the chancellor in the case of the City of New York, a student may be allowed to participate on the safety team, provided however, that no portion of a confidential building-level emergency response plan shall be shared with such student nor shall such student be present where details of a confidential building-level emergency response plan or confidential portions of a district-wide emergency response strategy are discussed.
- **155.17(c)(1)(i)** policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including threats by students against themselves, which for the purposes of this subdivision shall include suicide;
- **155.17(c)(1)(ii)** policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel and visitors to the school, including consideration of zero-tolerance policies for school violence;
- **155.17(c)(1)(iii)** appropriate prevention and intervention strategies, such as: (a) collaborative arrangements with State and local law enforcement officials, designed to ensure that school safety officers and other security personnel are adequately trained, including being trained to de-escalate potentially violent situations, and are effectively and fairly recruited; (b) nonviolent conflict resolution training programs; (c) peer mediation programs and youth courts; and (d) extended day and other school safety programs;
- **155.17(c)(1)(iv)** policies and procedures for contacting the appropriate law enforcement officials in the event of a violent incident;
- **155.17(c)(1)(v)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of the arrangements for obtaining assistance during emergencies from emergency services organizations and local government agencies;
- **155.17(c)(1)(vi)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the procedures for obtaining advice and assistance from local government officials, including the county or city officials responsible for implementation of article 2-B of the Executive Law;
- **155.17(c)(1)(vii)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the identification of district resources which may be available for use during an emergency;
- **155.17(c)(1)(viii)** except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, a description of procedures to coordinate the use of school district resources and manpower during emergencies, including identification of the officials authorized to make decisions and of the staff members assigned to provide assistance during emergencies;
- **155.17(c)(1)(ix)** policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident or an early dismissal;
- **155.17(c)(1)(x)** policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to an individual student of the district in the event of an implied or direct threat of violence by such student against themselves, which for the purposes of this subdivision shall include suicide;

- **155.17(c)(1)(xi)** policies and procedures relating to school building security, including, where appropriate, the use of school safety officers and/or security devices or procedures;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xii)** policies and procedures for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including but not limited to the identification of family, community and environmental factors to teachers, administrators, parents and other persons in parental relation to students of the school district or board, students and other persons deemed appropriate to receive such information;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xiii)** policies and procedures for annual multi-hazard school safety training for staff and students, provided that the district must certify to the commissioner that all staff have undergone annual training by September 15, 2016 and each subsequent September 15th thereafter on the building-level emergency response plan which must include components on violence prevention and mental health, provided further that new employees hired after the start of the school year shall receive such training within 30 days of hire or as part of the district's existing new hire training program, whichever is sooner;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xiv)** procedures for review and the conduct of drills and other exercises to test components of the emergency response plan, including the use of tabletop exercises, in coordination with local and county emergency responders and preparedness officials;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xv)** the identification of appropriate responses to emergencies, including protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage-takings, intrusions and kidnappings;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xvi)** strategies for improving communication among students and between students and staff and reporting of potentially violent incidents, such as the establishment of youth-run programs, peer mediation, conflict resolution, creating a forum or designating a mentor for students concerned with bullying or violence and establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms for school violence;
- **155.17(c)(1)(xvii)** a description of the duties of hall monitors and any other school safety personnel, the training required of all personnel acting in a school security capacity, and the hiring and screening process for all personnel acting in a school security capacity;
- **155.17(1)(c)(xix)** the designation of the superintendent, or superintendent's designee, as the district chief emergency officer whose duties shall include but not be limited to:
- **155.17(c)(2)(h)** Fire and emergency drills. Each school district and board of cooperative educational services shall, at least once every school year, and where possible in cooperation with local county emergency preparedness plan officials, conduct one test of its emergency response procedures under each of its building-level emergency response plans, including sheltering, lock-down, or early dismissal, at a time not to occur more than 15 minutes earlier than the normal dismissal time.
- **155.17(c)(2)(h)(3)(i)** Except in a school district in a city having a population of more than one million inhabitants, the chief executive officer of each educational agency located within a public school district shall provide to the superintendent of schools information about school population, number of staff, transportation needs and the business and home telephone numbers of key officials of such educational agencies.