



Newell Christian School

In-Person Learning During Emergencies Policy

Approval Date: September 18, 2025

Applies To: All Members of the NCS School Community

1. Purpose

This policy provides direction for the continuation of **in-person learning** during emergency situations such as public health crises, natural disasters, or other major disruptions. As a Christian school, we are committed to honoring God through education that is safe, adaptable, and rooted in faith.

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.” – 1 Corinthians 14:33

2. Guiding Principles

We are committed to providing Christ-centered education, even in uncertain times. This policy is built on the following principles:

- **Christ as Our Foundation:** Trusting in God’s sovereignty and care during times of crisis.
- **Safety and Well-being:** Prioritizing the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of our community.
- **Educational Continuity:** Ensuring academic progress is maintained with integrity and compassion.
- **Equity and Compassion:** Reflecting Christ’s love by supporting all students, especially the vulnerable.
- **Partnership with Families and Authorities:** Working together in unity and obedience to both Scripture and civil authority.

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” – 1 Corinthians 14:40

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

3. Definition of Emergency

An **emergency** is any event that significantly disrupts normal school operations and endangers the safety or well-being of students and staff. Examples include:

- Severe Health Concerns
- Environmental hazards (e.g., wildfires, floods)
- Major infrastructure failure
- Public safety threats

4. Authority and Governance

Decisions about in-person learning during an emergency will be made by:

- The **principal**, in consultation with the school board
- **Alberta Education** and **Alberta Health Services**, when applicable
- In prayerful consideration, with guidance from God’s Word and school leadership

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” – James 1:5

5. Operational Protocols During Emergencies

a. Health and Safety Measures

- Comply with Alberta Health Services protocols as directed by the board
- Maintain a calm, faith-filled atmosphere rooted in God’s peace, not fear

b. Attendance and Student Support

- Attendance will be flexible, with grace extended to families affected by illness or hardship
- Students with learning needs will continue to receive supports as per their ISP or accommodations

c. Communication

- Transparent, timely communication will be prioritized
- Updates will be shared through email, phone, newsletters, and the school’s website
- Messages will include encouragement from Scripture and prayer where appropriate

d. Transition to Online or Blended Learning (If required)

- If in-person learning must be paused, we will transition to remote or blended learning
- Teachers will continue to Biblically integrate lesson plans.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” – Proverbs 22:6

6. Roles and Responsibilities

School Administration

- Develop and maintain an Emergency Response Plan
- Ensure training for staff and readiness to adapt to changing conditions
- Communicate with Alberta Education and AHS as required

Teachers and Staff

- Deliver instruction aligned with Alberta Program of Studies that is Biblically integrated
- Offer spiritual encouragement and maintain personal connections and communication with students and their parents
- Provide accommodations for students where necessary

Parents and Guardians

- Partner with the school in reinforcing routines, faith, and communication
- Support students in continuing their education from home if required

Students

- Participate actively in learning (whether in person or at home)
- Follow health and safety protocols
- Trust in God and care for one another

7. Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or following any emergency event, with feedback from staff, parents, and students considered. Revisions will be prayerfully considered by leadership and the board.

8. Scripture for Encouragement

- *Psalm 46:1 – “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*
- *Philippians 4:6–7 – “Do not be anxious about anything... but in every situation, by prayer and petition... present your requests to God.”*
- *Isaiah 41:10 – “So do not fear, for I am with you... I will strengthen you and help you.”*

9. References

- The Bible
- Alberta Education – Emergency Planning Resources

- Alberta Health Services – School Health Guidance
 - Education Act (Alberta)
 - Occupational Health and Safety Act (Alberta)
 - Newell Christian School Statement of Faith and Educational Philosophy
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Companion Procedures: In-Person Learning During Emergencies

1. Emergency Response Activation Procedure

Step	Action	Responsible
1	Identify and assess emergency (e.g., health outbreak, weather event)	Principal / Admin
2	Call Board Chair, Alberta Education / AHS	Principal/Board
3	Activate Emergency Response Plan	Principal
4	Inform staff and prepare school for operational adjustments	Administration
5	Communicate with parents	Principal/Admin

2. Health and Safety Procedure (If In-Person Learning Continues)

- Follow **AHS protocols**: screening, isolation, PPE, cleaning schedules in consultation with the board.
- Implement **cohorting or class-based distancing** if necessary
- Provide **mental health supports** rooted in Christian counseling or pastoral care
- Keep daily attendance logs
- Encourage prayer and devotionals that build calm and trust in God

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7

3. Transition to Remote or Blended Learning (If required)

Area	Procedure
Academic	Teachers will deliver instruction using [Google Classroom / Microsoft Teams / our LMS], including Bible integration
Tech Support	IT staff will provide login instructions and troubleshoot with families
Attendance	Daily check-ins via video or posted assignments

Area	Procedure
Support	Students with I.E.P.s or special needs will receive modified tasks and direct teacher check-ins
Spiritual Life	Weekly chapel/devotionals/prayer sessions will be sent via video or live stream

Parent Communication Template

Date:

Subject: Important Update on School Operations – Newell Christian School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to inform you of an emergency that may impact our school operations. At Newell Christian School, we are committed to your child’s academic progress, safety, and spiritual well-being—even in challenging times.

After prayerful consideration and consultation with our board, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, we will proceed with the following:

- **[Insert decision: continuing in-person / moving to blended / remote learning]**
- **Effective Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Key Adjustments:**
 - Class schedules:
 - Health protocols:
 - Online learning access:

We know that God remains sovereign and faithful, and we draw strength from His promises.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?” – Psalm 27:1

Please continue to check your email and our website for updates. If you have any questions or require support, do not hesitate to reach out.

Let’s continue to support one another in prayer, grace, and love.

In Christ,

Principal (on behalf of the board)

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