

GUIDELINES FOR NOTIFYING STAFF

These preparations should be made by the individual responsible for notifying faculty and staff about a suicide so that a system will be in place in the event of a death.

- Create two telephone trees:
 1. To notify the Suicide Response Team
 2. To notify all staff members of a suicide that occurs during non-school hours
- Hold a staff meeting before school opens to review the postvention process. Provide staff with any information they may need to address the situation when the students arrive.
- Identify which Suicide Response Team members will be responsible for notifying staff if news of a suicide arrives while school is in session. These people should be provided with completed copies of a suicide death announcement (examples can be found in Attachments 3.9 and 3.10).
- Announcements should always be made in classrooms. They should never be made over the school's public address system or in assemblies. In classrooms, school staff familiar to the students can make the announcements and then assess students' reactions, respond to students' concerns, provide support, and identify those who may need additional help. This will help students cope with intense emotions they may experience.

Source: Preventing Suicide: A High School Toolkit, SAMHSA