

NEW HANOVER COUNTY SCHOOLS LOCKDOWN FACT SHEET

What is a school lockdown?

A school lockdown confines staff and students to the classroom due to a perceived or real threat.



Lockdowns (all lock downs are to be treated the same):

- Lockdown drills led by the principal; principal-led drills are usually done twice a year and help students and staff practice the procedures of a lockdown.
- Lockdown drills led by the NHCS director of school safety and school resources officer(s); these unannounced drills help the safety director assess lockdown performance and make recommendations so improvements and/or changes can be made.
- Lockdowns led by law enforcement; these are not drills and are typically put in place because of a situation happening on or off school campus. They are precautionary measures to keep students, staff and visitors safe until law enforcement has controlled the situation. Examples of off-campus situations include potentially dangerous persons, animals or natural threats such as gas leaks. Internal threats can be led by law enforcement.

What happens during a lockdown or shelter-in-place?

- Principals make a school-wide announcement that a lockdown or shelter-in-place is in effect.
- All building doors are locked and no one can come in or out of the building or classrooms.
- Students are kept calm by the classroom teacher.
- Once the lockdown is lifted, normal instruction and activities resume.

Is there a difference between a lockdown and shelter-in-place?

Yes, a lockdown carries a heightened sense of security while a shelter-in-place allows instruction and other activities to continue. Both require doors to be locked with no one permitted to enter or leave the building.

What should parents do during lockdowns?

- Refrain from picking up your child at school. Lockdowns prohibit the entrance, dismissal or release of any persons until the lockdown is lifted.
- Be on alert for announcements from the NHCS automated messaging system, website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Trust NHCS and the steps in place to keep students, employees and visitors safe.

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