### **School Threat Assessment Decision Tree**



A threat assessment is not a critical incident response. If there is an indication that violence is imminent, take immediate action, such as calling 911 and follow the school critical incident response plan.

Obtain a detailed account of the threat, usually by interviewing the person who made the threat, the intended target(s), and witnesses. Write the exact content of the threat and key observations by each party on the school threat assessment protocol report (Form 340-1 Threat Assessment Summary). Consider the circumstances in which the threat was made and the student's intentions.

### Step 1. Evaluate the threat (principal)

Is there communication of intent to harm someone or behaviour suggesting intent to harm?

### Yes, there is a threat



### Step 2. Attempt to resolve the threat as transient (principal)

Is the threat an expression of humour, rhetoric, anger, or frustration that can easily be resolved so that there is no intent to harm? Does the person retract the threat or offer an explanation and/or apology that indicates no future intent to harm anyone?

### No. The threat is substantive



## Step 3. Resolve the threat as an a) serious or b) very serious substantive threat (principal)

Serious means a threat to hit, fight, or beat up whereas very serious means a threat to kill, rape, cause very serious injury, or involves a weapon.

### Very serious substantive threat



# Complete the school threat assessment protocol report steps for a very serious substantive threat (principal)

The student may be briefly placed elsewhere or suspended pending completion of the following:

- a) Take precautions to protect potential target(s).
- b) Notify parents/guardians of intended target(s) and the individual(s), when appropriate.
- c) Inform senior administration.
- d) Notify the parents/guardians of the student who made the threat.
- e) Take appropriate disciplinary actions.
- f) Request violence risk assessment (completed by school psychologist).
- g) Complete the *school threat assessment protocol report* and store it at the school for the duration of the school year.
- h) Complete the *crisis response summary of actions* and upload it into the subject's student record.
- i) Implement and monitor the safety plan. Revise as needed.



### Not a threat

Might be an expression of anger that merits attention.

Implement and monitor the safety plan when appropriate.



Serious substantive

threat

#### Case resolved as transient

Add services as needed. Implement and monitor the safety plan when appropriate.

# Complete the school threat assessment protocol report steps for a serious substantive threat (principal)

### Additionally:

- a) Take precautions to protect potential target(s).
- Notify parents/guardians of intended target(s) and the individual(s), when appropriate.
- Notify the parents/guardians of the student who made the threat.
- d) Take appropriate disciplinary actions.
- e) Complete the school threat assessment protocol report and store it at the school for the duration of the school year.
- f) Implement and monitor the safety plan. Revise as needed.