

Public

TO: ADMINISTRATIVE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
JUNE 7, 2004

FROM: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

SUBJECT: **GUIDELINES FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Origin:

Arising out of the Administrative and Corporate Services Committee meeting of February 12, 2004. Staff was directed to report back with guidelines for weather conditions.

Executive Summary

In the interest of student health and school performance, the TCDSB is in support of students being outdoors during recesses whenever possible. However, students will remain indoors during inclement weather.
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Comments:

1. "It is the duty of a Principal to give assiduous attention to the health and comfort of the pupils." Education Act 265(1)(j)
2. The TCDSB is in support of healthy physical activity for all students. Health Canada's Guide for Physical Activity: Children and Youth, recommends 90 minutes of physical activity per day. In addition, school performance, time on task, creativity and productivity improve through increased physical activity. To that end, students should be outdoors during recess periods whenever possible.
3. Students will remain indoors in the event of rain.
4. Students will remain indoors based on the possibility of severe thunderstorms or lightning in the area of the school.
5. Students will remain indoors when the temperature, or the temperature in conjunction with the wind speed, creates a wind chill factor that could possibly lead to frostbite (Appendix A).

6. In the event that the condition of the schoolyard, as a result of the weather, might pose a safety hazard, the students will remain indoors.

Conclusion:

This report is presented for the information of the Board.

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Wind Chill Program

MSC - EC - GC

Wind Chill Hazards

Check the wind chill before you go outdoors in the winter, and make sure you are well prepared for the weather. Even moderate wind chill values can be dangerous if you are outside for long periods.

Note: The guidelines on frostbite in the table below apply to healthy adults.

Wind Chill Hazards and Risk of Frostbite

Wind Chill	Risk of frostbite	Health Concern	What to do
0 to -9	Low	- Slight increase in discomfort	- Dress warmly, with the outside temperature in mind.
-10 to -27	Low	- Uncomfortable - Risk of hypothermia if outside for long periods without adequate protection	- Dress in layers of warm clothing, with an outer layer that is wind-resistant. - Wear a hat, mittens and scarf. - Keep active.
-28 to -39	Increasing risk: exposed skin can freeze in 10 to 30 minutes	- Check face and extremities (fingers, toes, ears and nose) for numbness or whiteness - Risk of hypothermia if outside for long periods without adequate protection	- Dress in layers of warm clothing, with an outer layer that is wind-resistant. - Cover exposed skin: wear a hat, mittens and a scarf, neck tube or face mask. - Keep active.
-40 to -47	High risk: exposed skin can freeze in 5 to 10 minutes*	- Check face and extremities (fingers, toes, ears and nose) for numbness or whiteness (frostbite) - Risk of hypothermia if outside for long periods without adequate protection	- Dress in layers of warm clothing, with an outer layer that is wind-resistant. - Cover all exposed skin: wear a hat, mittens and a scarf, neck tube or face mask. - Keep active.
WARNING LEVEL** -48 to -54	High risk: exposed skin can freeze in 2 to 5 minutes*	- Check face and extremities frequently for numbness or whiteness (frostbite) - Serious risk of	- Be careful. Dress very warmly in layers of clothing, with an outer layer that is wind-

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		hypothermia if outside for long periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover all exposed skin: wear a hat, mittens and a scarf, neck tube or face mask. - Be ready to cut short or cancel outdoor activities. - Keep active.
-55 and colder	High risk: exposed skin can freeze in less than 2 minutes	DANGER! - Outdoor conditions are hazardous	- Stay indoors.

* In sustained winds over 50 km/h, frostbite can occur faster than indicated.

**In parts of the country with a milder climate (such as southern Ontario and the Atlantic provinces except Labrador), a wind chill warning is issued at about -35. Further north, people have grown more accustomed to the cold, and have adapted to the more severe conditions. Because of this, Environment Canada issues warnings at progressively colder wind chill values as you move north. Most of Canada hears a warning at about -45. Residents of the Arctic, northern Manitoba and northern Quebec are warned at about -50, and those of the high Arctic, at about -55.

Meteorological Service of Canada - Environment Canada - Government of Canada

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Created : 2002-08-26
 Modified : 2003-12-01
 Reviewed : 2003-12-01
 Url of this page : http://www.msc.ec.gc.ca/education/windchill/windchill_threshold_chart_e.cfm

The Green Lane™,
 Environment Canada's World Wide Web Site.

