



What should I do in an emergency if my kids are at school or daycare?

FACT SHEET: Stay calm. Stay informed.

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STATE CIVIL DEFENSE / HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

For Public Schools

Go to hawaiipublicschools.org and follow the Hawaii Department of Education @HIDOE808

For Private/Charter Schools

Each private and charter school is different. Make sure you have the latest contact information.

Common terms used by the Department of Education during emergencies include:

Lockdown – A lockdown takes place if a threat is identified at the school. Students are confined to the classroom and no entry into or exit from the school is allowed until the threat has passed.

Shelter in Place – Students take refuge in designated areas to protect them from hazardous materials or severe weather. No entry into or exit from the school is allowed until the threat has passed.

Evacuation - Evacuations are conducted when it is no longer safe to remain on campus. All schools have evacuation sites and conduct annual drills. If the emergency continues and students are not able to return, parent or guardian re-unification will take place.

Learn about the emergency plan for your child’s school or daycare.

Talk to your school administrator or daycare provider about their emergency plan. Find out what the plan is to alert parents to an emergency at their facility and how to reunite with your child if there is an emergency during school or daycare hours.

Make sure your contact information is updated.

Your child’s school or daycare should always have up-to-date contact information for you and an alternate emergency contact. Most reunification plans require parents to identify emergency contacts and to provide proof of identity before they will release a child after an emergency.

Stay informed through official channels.

Monitor local media broadcasts and official websites and social media for information during an emergency. Do not engage in speculation. If you see or hear something questionable about an emergency at your child’s school or daycare, verify it with an official source like the Department of Education or your local civil defense or emergency management agency.

Stay Calm.

Your child will take your lead when it comes to response to an emergency. Remaining calm will reassure your child and help him or her to deal with an emergency. Do not rush to your child’s school or daycare unless instructed to. Avoid calling and texting as you may tie up critical communications needed to respond to the emergency.

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State Civil Defense / Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

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