

SAMPLE MEDIA STATEMENTS
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT TO
THE IDAHO SCHOOL RESPONSE GUIDELINES FOR SUICIDE AND SUDDEN DEATH

Please remember that prompt response to the media is critical to help mitigate rumors.

Formal Statement to Notify Media of Suicide or Sudden Death

(School) is sad to report that it has confirmed the death of one of its students/staff, (student/staff name), with the coroner's office and the deceased's family. (Name), a (age)-year-old, (grade, e.g. sophomore)/(a teacher at our school), died (day) [by suicide – if officially declared]. He/she was a resident of (city/town) and was active in (clubs/athletics/etc.) at the school. Funeral arrangements are not available at this time. School counselors and community mental health representatives are available to any student or staff who wishes to talk about (Name)'s death. Our school's primary focus of resources is on the welfare of the school community.

- List community resources
- Give Suicide Prevention LifeLine number: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- List ways the media can be helpful with postvention. See "At-A-Glance Media Guidelines at <http://www.spanidaho.org/docs/youthsuicide/AtAGlance-SafeReproting-SPRC.pdf>, e.g., Remind them that the media plays a critical role in providing accurate information concerning this death.