

Ways to Avoid Suicide Contagion

<i>DO !!!</i>	<i>DON'T</i>
Follow the school's guidelines for dealing with a student suicide	Treat like an accidental death
Act in a concerned and empathetic manner	Behave in a quiet and overly conservative manner
Within 24 hours, formally address the suicide within the school setting	Dramatize the impact of suicide through descriptions and pictures of grieving relatives, teachers or classmates
Get facts out to dispel rumors. Limit the information as appropriate. Make sure everyone has the same information	Describe in great detail the suicide (method or place)
Avoid any glorification of the suicide such as holding a memorial at school or in some way honoring the student	Hold a memorial service for the student at school, plant a tree or object to honor the student, fly flag at half-mast, make tribute in yearbook
Minimize identification; attempt to have students disidentify with suicide victim	Make the suicide appear to be rewarding or an appropriate or effective tool to achieve personal gain
Say "There were serious things troubling him/her that we may never know about."	Say the death was unexplainable, for example, "He had everything going for him."
Point out that suicide is a poor choice, and a permanent solution to temporary problems	Only emphasize their good qualities. However, be careful not to vilify the individual either
Give less emphasis to stressors or simplistic psychological processes, such as "pressure", since most suicide victims have long-standing mental health problems	Indicate that we all have stress, which could lead to suicide
Provide suicide prevention program for students and grief groups	Ignore students' grief.