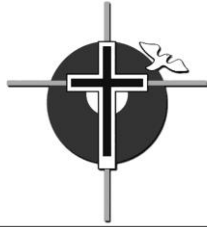


## 1. Purpose

To provide guidelines for use by school principals when weather conditions (hot/cold) may have health implications.

## 2. Procedure:

- 2.1 School staff should encourage parents to dress children appropriately.
- 2.2 School staff should also educate children about the weather, appropriate clothing, and good habits for the season.
- 2.3 School staff should encourage children to wear the appropriate clothing during outside activities.
- 2.4 Cold Weather - When the wind chill approaches –20 to -25, principals must be particularly vigilant and consider keeping children indoors for recess and lunch hour.
- 2.5 In any extreme weather situations (freezing rain, extremely high winds, extreme cold weather in excess of –25) students are to remain indoors.
- 2.6 Hot Weather:
  - 2.6.1 Exposure to UV rays and potential for skin cancer are the main concerns.
  - 2.6.2 There is no specific maximum room temperature cited in the literature at which a health hazard exists. Therefore, the decision to close a school during hot weather is to be made by the principal in consultation with the appropriate Superintendent of Schools and STEO Transportation.



# ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

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## **COLD WEATHER**

### **What does wind chill mean?**

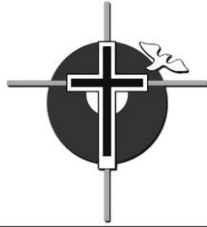
There's no doubt about it – wind does indeed have an effect on the temperature. If you've ever waited for a bus on a cold day, you know that a strong wind makes you feel much colder than the actual temperature on the thermometer. The wind chill represents how the temperature would feel on your skin if the wind were equivalent to 4.8 km/h, an average walking pace.

### **Wind Chill Index**

A new Wind Chill Formula was developed in 2001. The new index is based on the loss of heat from the face, the part of the body that is most exposed to severe winter weather. The wind chill index is expressed in temperature-like units, without the degree sign because it is not the actual temperature. For example: the outdoor temperature may be  $-22^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but the wind chill is 30. The temperature remains at  $-22^{\circ}\text{C}$ , however, your face will feel as cold as it would on a calm day when the temperature is  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The higher the values of the wind chill indexes, the greater the need for precaution with respect to outdoor activity. Environment Canada has developed a chart that explains what wind chill means in terms of dress and activity.

In Ontario, the wind chill warning levels vary with geographic locations:  $-35$  is the warning level for outdoor activity for people who live in the more southern areas of Ontario. The chart on the following page shows that even though the temperature on the thermometer may stay the same, increasing the wind speed causes the wind chill factor to increase. The shaded areas indicate under which conditions the wind chill reaches  $-35$  or lower.



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Table 1: Wind Chill Calculation Chart,

T<sub>air</sub> = Air temperature in °C and V<sub>10</sub> = Observed wind speed at 10m elevation, in km/h.

T <sub>air</sub> V <sub>10</sub>	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50
5	4	-2	-7	-13	-19	-24	-30	-36	-41	-47	-53	-58
10	3	-3	-9	-15	-21	-27	-33	-39	-45	-51	-57	-63
15	2	-4	-11	-17	-23	-29	-35	-41	-48	-54	-60	-66
20	41	-5	-12	-18	-24	-31	-37	-43	-49	-56	-62	-68
25	31	-6	-12	-19	-25	-32	-38	-45	-51	-57	-64	-70
30	20	-7	-13	-20	-26	-33	-39	-46	-52	-59	-65	-72
35	10	-7	-14	-20	-27	-33	-40	-47	-53	-60	-66	-73
40	-1	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-54	-61	-68	-74
45	-1	-8	-15	-21	-28	-35	-42	-48	-55	-62	-69	-75
50	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-49	-56	-63	-70	-76
55	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-63	-70	-77
60	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78
65	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79
70	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-59	-66	-73	-80
75	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-59	-66	-73	-80
80	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81

**Approximate Thresholds:**

Risk of frostbite in prolonged exposure: wind chill below	-25	
Frostbite possible in 10 minutes at	-35	Warm skin, suddenly exposed. Shorter time if skin is cool at the start
Frostbite possible in less than 2 minutes at	-60	Warm skin, suddenly exposed. Shorter time if skin is cool at the start