Gather the crisis team

**·**        Inform relevant parties

**·**        Counseling to provide support opportunities to students affected

**·**        Provide information/access to community resources and support

The differences may be that the crisis team meeting will be via Zoom or some other video conferencing tool. By informing relevant parties, this may be email or some other way, considering on the school and the age appropriateness of the news.   
   
Given the students are with the families (and not at school), it is prudent to inform families first of such situations. The parents/guardians can then decide how best to tell their child. School counselors may still reach out via videoconferencing to affected students and may hold some sort of online peer group support.  
   
If the death is a student suicide, we will want to be even more thoughtful/intentional as others may be influenced (contagion). Therefore, we recommend connecting with community-based agencies who might be able to provide additional phone or online support to students who need it.  
   
**What do I do if I suspect a student may be suicidal?**  
Your school/district should have a protocol in place for working with students who may be suicidal. Follow that protocol. Here are additional steps:  
If you are working with a student who appears to be experiencing a suicidal crisis, begin at Step 1. If you are informed of a student who may be having a suicidal crisis by another member of the school community, proceed to Step 2 below.   
  
Step 1: If a student you are working with appears to be having a suicidal crisis use active listening:

**·**        to establish a trusting relationship with the student

**·**        to decrease the intensity of the student's emotions

**·**        to ask about the student's current state and plan or means to carry it out

Step 2: Inform parents/families.  
If you are in direct contact with the student in crisis, maintain video/voice contact with student while this contact is made, if possible. For example, you might ask the student to bring the phone/laptop to the parent/guardian if the parent/guardian is in the same place as the student.

**·**        Convey the information you have.

**·**        If risk may be high and parents cannot be reached or are not with the student, contact local police to do a wellness check.

Step 3. Document information received, decisions made and actions taken per the school district directives.  
  
Step 4. Consult with another school counselor or student instructional support personnel to review steps, if possible.  
  
Step 5. Notify your appropriate administration about the situation.  
  
Step 6. Follow up.

**·**        Refer family to community resources.

**·**        Follow up with the student and family.

Step 7. If relevant, follow up with the friend(s) or other individual who referred the suicidal student to ensure the student continues to have support.