



## VTRA Protocol Fair Notice

**Canadian Rockies Public Schools** are committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When students' behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Violence Risk Threat Assessment (VTRA) Protocol will be enacted to help school teams take steps to protect the safety of the school community. This team may include representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safe, such as local police or mental health organizations.

### WHAT IS A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA) PROTOCOL?

The protocol is designed to enhance the safety of all students. It is incumbent upon CRPS to share necessary and appropriate information that may initiate or facilitate the Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) process. It is a trauma-informed and equity-inclusion guided practice that utilizes an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) process to:

- Ensure the safety of all individuals
- Begin to understand the factors that contribute to the Individual of Concern's (IOC's) threatening or high risk behaviour
- View the Individual of Concern (IOC) as in need of intervention and support rather than discipline
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the Individual of Concern (IOC). It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid the Individual of Concern (IOC) in developing and using more appropriate strategies
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of all

**It is NOT a Disciplinary tool or Response**

### WHAT IS A THREAT?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to appropriately.

### Duty to Report

Often when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the Individual of Concern had made threats in advance of acting violently. To keep our communities safe we need to act responsibly and report all threat-related behaviours and high risk activities.



When a report of a threat is received by any member of this protocol, and upon screening it is determined the threshold for the “Categories for Action” is met, the CRPS Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol will be activated.

**“Categories for Action,” may include, but are not limited to:**

- Serious violence or violence with intent to kill
- Violence with intent to do serious harm
- Verbal/written threats to kill others (clear, direct and plausible)
- Verbal/written threats to do serious bodily harm (clear, direct and plausible)
- Social media / technology generated threats to harm/kill others
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- Bomb threats (making and / or detonate explosive devices),
- Fire setting
- Sexual intimidation or assault
- Ongoing pervasive and targeted bullying and / or harassment
- Gang related intimidation and violence
- Hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to race, culture, religion, and / or sexual and gender diversity
- Suicidal ideation or attempts as related to “fluidity” or “conspiracy of two or more.”

**Can I refuse to participate?**

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by either the Individual of Concern, or parent / guardian, the threat assessment will continue in order to ensure and restore a safe and inclusive environment for all.