

# **CODE PURPLE**

**(Hostage Taking)**

Revised: February 2019

## **INTRODUCTION**

A **Code Purple** (hostage taking) is initiated to support an immediate response where a hostage is taken.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL STAFF**

- **Do not enter area where situation is unfolding.**

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Nurture an environment that prevents violent behaviours.
- Upon hearing **Code Purple** announcement, at any time, return to your department, if safe to do so.
- Remain calm and avoid any aggressive behaviour in order to reduce the level of agitation.
- Remain alert for opportunities to ensure safety of all occupants.
- Account for staff and patients and wait for further instructions (i.e.: Code Green).
- Prevent unauthorized people from entering the area/building.
- All staff must sign the Emergency Code Participation Record for any Code (drill or actual).
- Participate in the debriefing session as required.

## **CODE PURPLE PROCEDURE**

- Notify switchboard to announce a **Code Purple** over the PA system.
- Secure the area by instructing all visitors, patients/residents and others to leave the area immediately.
- Communicate all pertinent information to the appropriate personnel.
- Debriefing session will be held following the completion of **Code Purple**.

**INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

***Switchboard***

When notified of a **CODE PURPLE** situation, announce the following over the PA system:

**Attention please, attention please  
Code Purple – general area  
Code Purple – general area  
Code Purple – general area**

*Example:*

**Attention please, attention please  
Code Purple – LTC  
Code Purple – LTC  
Code Purple – LTC**

When directed, announce the following over the PA system:

**Attention please, attention please  
Code Purple all clear  
Code Purple all clear  
Code Purple all clear**

**CODE PURPLE LEADER**

The most appropriate staff member available will assume the role of **Code Purple Leader**.

- Immediately evacuate patients/visitors/personnel from area of danger, if safe to do so.
- Call 9-1-1- immediately and request the OPP.
- The Code Purple Leader is to contact administration on-call (i.e.: initiate the IMS as required).
- Provide leadership through direction and guidance to staff during Code Purple.
- Facilitate a debriefing session to evaluate the incident.
- Complete a formal [Codes Evaluation Form](#) and forward to the Manager of Support Services (administration).