

Postvention Quick Guide

The Suicide and Traumatic Event Postvention Quick Guide includes actions taken after a death by suicide or other tragic event to facilitate communication, conduct crisis intervention, limit contagion, and connect affected caregivers with ongoing care.

Forming a Postvention Plan

Form a Postvention Team to guide the development of a postvention plan:

- Consult the **Providence Postvention Guide** and other expert resources for guidance.
- Include one primary and one backup members representing each category of work: Messaging, Wellbeing, and Operations.
- Include a regional champion who is well known and well regarded in the ministry.

Develop a Step-by-Step Postvention Plan:

- Develop tools and procedures, such as internal and external communication procedures and templates.
- Identify and train team members involved in executing your Postvention Plan.



Responding in the Aftermath of a Traumatic Event

1. **Notify Postvention Team** of the event, **evaluate the situation**, and **initiate a response**:
 - Verify that the event has occurred.
 - Identify the location of the event and determine what was discovered, then evaluate how that will impact the response.
 - If on campus, secure the scene and notify security, law enforcement, and facilities.
2. **Notify the family and/or emergency contact of the event.**
3. **Notify relevant leadership** in direct report pathway up to divisional executive level.
4. **Contact legal and communications** to initiate timely internal communications.
5. **Contact behavioral/spiritual health** to prepare for initial communications with affected co-workers.
6. **Notify Human Resources** to ensure communications align with relevant policies and benefits.
7. **Initiate Critical Incident Response through Lyra.** Visit psjh.lyrahealth.com or call 844-311-6223.
8. **Finalize communications** depending on if cause of event can be disclosed, or is not yet known.
9. **Behavioral/Spiritual Health leads initial meetings** with affected co-workers prior to the end of shift.
 - Provide information about common reactions, signs, and symptoms.
10. **Notify management of other impacted departments** to adjust workflows and plan interventions.

Preventing Further Trauma

Support ongoing communications with caregivers in other impacted departments and family members or emergency contacts of the affected caregiver.

Check in daily with Core Leaders of impacted caregivers. Offer individual meetings, peer groups, and facilitate internal or external referrals if appropriate.

Notice and respond to signs of emotional distress amongst coworkers.

