SAMPLE MEDIA STATMENT

Idaho Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Please remember that prompt response to the media is critical to help mitigate rumors.

# Formal Statement to Notify Media of Suicide or Sudden Death

(School Name) is sad to report that it has confirmed the death of one of its students/staff, (student/staff name), with the coroner’s office and the deceased’s family. (Name), a (age) year-old, (grade /a teacher at our school), died on (day) [by suicide – if officially declared].

They were a resident of (city/town) and were active in (clubs/athletics/etc.) at the school. Funeral arrangements are currently not available. School counselors and community mental health representatives are available to any student or staff who wishes to talk about (student/staff name)’s death. Our school’s primary focus is on the welfare of the school’s students, staff, and community.

With that in mind, it is important to remember that there is support within the community. (List community resources). If you or someone you know is experiencing an emotional or suicide crisis, contact the Idaho Crisis & Suicide Hotline by calling or texting 988.

NOTE: List ways the media can be helpful with postvention. Visit [reportingonsuicide.org](https://reportingonsuicide.org/) for ideas. Remind them the media plays a critical role in providing accurate information concerning this death.