

## STUDENTS WITH SEVERE (ANAPHYLACTIC) ALLERGIES

### Background

The Division recognizes the dangers faced by students with severe or anaphylactic reactions (allergies). While the Division cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, the Division will take reasonable steps to ensure a safe environment for children with life-threatening allergies.

The responsibility for communicating concerns about students with severe or anaphylactic reactions to foods belongs to parents and to the students themselves, depending on the student's age and maturity.

Schools have a supportive role to play in helping parents of students with severe allergies avoid exposure to pre-identified allergens while the student is at school.

### Definition

Anaphylactic reactions are those severe allergy reactions that are life threatening and require immediate medical attention. An Epi-pen injection will offer up to fifteen (15) minutes time to get the affected person to emergency care at a hospital.

### Procedures

#### 1. Identifying Individuals at Risk

Parents/Guardians of students with severe allergies must:

- 1.1 Advise the Principal and homeroom teacher about the student's severe allergy when the allergy is diagnosed, at the beginning of each school year, or when the student changes schools and submit "Administration of Prescribed Medication and/or Medical Procedures" form (316-1).
- 1.2 Provide and keep emergency information current
- 1.3 Provide the student with a case containing at least one unexpired injector or other medication as prescribed by a physician and ensure that the student has the injector or medication readily available while at school, or on off-site school events or activities;
- 1.4 Provide snacks and lunches for the students; and
- 1.5 Provide the student with a MedicAlert bracelet or other suitable identification.

#### 2. Communication Strategies

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- 2.1 The Principal must:
    - 2.1.1 Advise the parents of the student with serve allergies of this procedure and provide them with a copy and advise them where all Administrative Procedures can be accessed online;
    - 2.1.2 Ensure student allergy information is indicated in the Student Data System;
    - 2.1.3 Develop a Health Services Plan (Form 316-7) with team members, which may include, but not limited to, classroom teacher(s), parents, child (if appropriate), Student Support Services Teacher, bus driver (if necessary), other health care professionals.
    - 2.1.4 Advise all staff members of students who have potentially life threatening allergies as soon as possible;
    - 2.1.5 Develop the Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan form and attach to the Health Services Plan.
    - 2.1.6 Request the consent of the parent to post the student's picture and display the Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan (Form 318-1) in a readily accessible location at the school;
  - 2.2 When a child has been identified as having a severe or anaphylactic reaction to specific foods, the principal will ask other parents in that student's class to refrain from sending those foods to school. Regular reminder shall be sent to staff, students, and parents regarding the problematic foods.
  - 2.3 If more information is needed, consult with the Superintendent of Student Services to gather the necessary medical information.
3. Allergy Avoidance Strategies
    - 3.1 Ingredients on food brought in or prepared for special events by the school community, prepared and served in school kitchens, or provided by catering companies cannot be guaranteed to be safe. Therefore, students with severe with allergies must:
      - 3.1.1 Eat only food brought from home unless authorized by the parents in writing; food for school annual events and hot lunches will be included in general parent information regarding the event;
      - 3.1.2 Wash their hands before eating;
      - 3.1.3 Learn to recognize symptoms of a severe allergic reaction;
      - 3.1.4 Promptly inform a teacher or an adult as soon as accidental ingestion or exposure to an allergen occur or symptoms of a severe allergic reaction appear;
      - 3.1.5 Keep an inject of medication handy at all times; and
      - 3.1.6 When age appropriate, know how to use the injector or take medication
    - 3.2 The classroom teacher will communicate with parents to ensure parent-prepared food being serviced to the class is appropriate.
    - 3.3 The use of foods in craft and cooking classes may need to be altered or restricted depending on children's allergies.

- 3.4 Students shall be taught of the dangers to anaphylactic students or sharing or trading lunches.
4. Training Strategy
- 4.1 The principal shall ensure that in-service is provided annually to school personnel in schools where students prone to anaphylaxis are enrolled on how to recognize and treat anaphylactic reaction.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 175, 188, 190 Education Act

Cross Reference: Administrative Procedure 316 – Administering Medications and Medical Treatment to Students

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