

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 minutes time to get the affected person to emergency care at a hospital.

Procedures

1. It is the responsibility of the principal to request that parents/guardians with anaphylactic children identify their children and encourage their children to wear an allergy alert bracelet.
 - 1.1. Special protocols may be established in extenuating circumstances.
2. The goal of this Administrative Procedure is to provide a safe environment for children with life-threatening allergies, recognizing that it is not possible to reduce the risk to zero. The following principles will guide schools:
 - 2.1. Schools and classrooms must be able to adapt to the needs of individual children and the allergens which trigger reaction;
 - 2.2. Precautions may vary based on the properties of the allergen;
 - 2.3. A list of common anaphylactic life threatening allergenic symptoms and emergency procedures, including general instructions for use of auto-injectors are to be posted in visible locations in schools;

- 2.4. The age and maturity level of the child shall be considered. As children mature, they can be expected to take greater personal responsibility for avoidance of their allergen;
- 2.5. Schools are encouraged to find innovative ways to minimize risk of exposure without placing unreasonable restrictions on other children.
3. The principal shall request from the parents/guardians written information regarding:
 - 3.1. A list of foods and/or other allergens that could trigger an anaphylactic reaction.
 - 3.2. A treatment protocol that outlines the visible signs, risk factors, restrictions and an emergency response protocol signed by the child's physician.
 - 3.3. Immediate notification whenever there is a change related to the child's condition.
 - 3.4. Updated medical information each school year at the time of registration
 - 3.5. Consent to share the student's information with school staff.
 - 3.6. Permission to post and/or distribute photographs and medical information in key locations such as classrooms, school bus, staff room, etc.
4. All staff members including all school-based and itinerant instructional student staff services as well as bus drivers must be made aware that a child with anaphylaxis is attending their school and that child shall be identified, either individually or at a staff meeting before or immediately after the child registers at the school.
5. Students shall be taught of the dangers to anaphylactic students of sharing or trading lunches.
 - 5.1. The principal shall ensure that training is provided as needed to school personnel, including bus drivers, on:
 - 5.1.1. How to recognize and treat anaphylactic reaction.
 - 5.1.2. The Division administrative procedure to protect students with anaphylaxis from exposure to allergens.
 - 5.1.3. The protocol for responding to emergencies.
 - 5.1.4. The use of the auto-injector.
 - 5.1.5. The principal shall ensure that substitute employees and volunteers have appropriate information about anaphylaxis including information on safety procedures.

6. Avoidance and Prevention

- 6.1. While avoidance is key to preventing an allergic reaction and individuals at risk of anaphylaxis must take ownership for their own safety, schools are expected to create an allergy-aware environment.
- 6.2. Principals, in collaboration with other staff, are encouraged to find methods to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens without depriving students with anaphylaxis of normal peer interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other students in the school.
- 6.3. Precautions may vary depending on the specific properties of the allergen but may include the safe avoidance of allergens, limiting exposure to triggers or irritants, and/or supporting prescribed management regimens. The principal shall avoid using the classroom(s) of children with food allergens as a lunchroom. If the classroom must be used for that purpose, it must be established as an “allergen-free” area.

7. Emergency Response Protocol

- 7.1. In collaboration with the parents and physician, an emergency response plan is to be developed for each student with anaphylaxis and included in the Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan.
- 7.2. Parents or guardians are responsible for providing the school with an epinephrine auto-injector which is not expired.

Legal Reference: Section 85, 87, 109, 175, 188, 190 Education Act
Forms Manual: Form 316-1; Form 316-2; Form 316-3, Form 316-4

Updated: March 2017