

## POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

### Background

The Good Spirit School Division and the Ministry of Education recognizes the right to a safe, healthy and inclusive school environment, where the emergent health and safety needs of students are met. As such, schools have a duty to promote well-being and accommodate the health and safety needs of students living with a potentially life-threatening medical condition(s). The conditions are determined by a qualified health practitioner such as a nurse practitioner, physician or allergist. Potentially life-threatening medical conditions may include medical conditions such as anaphylaxis (allergies), diabetes, seizures (epilepsy) and/or other medical conditions asthma that require daily or ongoing management with the potential to result in a medical incident or life-threatening emergency.

The Medical Management for Potentially Life-Threatening Medical Conditions is contained in the Clevr template, Medical Management and Response, which includes individualized information on the student's condition, strategies to avoid triggers, actions to take to maintain the student's safety during and after an episode, and emergency medical response.

The Division recognizes the right of all students to attend school in a relatively safe way and requires that procedures are in place in its schools to reduce the risk to children with potentially life-threatening medical conditions. It is recognized that it is not possible to reduce the risk to zero. The following principles will guide the process:

### Procedures

Role of Central Office:

1. Provide annual staff training on life-threatening medical conditions of individual students as identified in the Medical Management template.
2. Consider the management of potentially life-threatening medical condition when entering into contracts with Transportation, Food Services, and other providers.
3. Develop expectations for schools to support the safe storage and disposal of medication and medical supplies.
4. Ensure that students' personal health information is safely and confidentially stored and destroyed when no longer necessary.
5. Raise awareness of their policies and procedures relating to Student Health needs.

#### Role of School Staff:

School staff play a key role in supporting the students' safe, accepting, and healthy learning environment, allowing students to participate in school to their fullest potential.

1. Meet with the student and parents/ guardians annually to review the Medical Management Plan outlined in Clevr.
2. Review and implement the Medical Management Plan for any student with whom they have direct contact, and for those on the school care team to participate in student specific training.
3. Support a student's daily or routine management of their condition and respond to medical emergencies that occur during school hours.
4. Follow strategies that reduce the risk of student exposure to triggers or causative agents in classrooms, common school areas, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, school trips. and work experience placements as identified in the student's Medical Management Plan.
5. Share information on a student's signs and symptoms of their potentially life-threatening medical condition with classmates and volunteers, occasional staff and inform as to an appropriate bystander response during and after an episode as outlined in the Medical Management Plan with the authorization from parents / guardians.
6. Support inclusion by enabling students with a potentially life-threatening medical condition to participate in school to their full potential as outlined in their Medical Management Plan.
7. Ensure the student's Medical Management Plan is carried and followed, along with required materials, such as: emergency medication, and specialized equipment. Reduce the risk of exposure to causative triggers that are identified and minimized on school trips, excursions, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
8. Support of students inclusion by allowing them to perform daily or routine management activities in a school location, as outlined in their Medical Management Plan while respecting the confidentiality and dignity of the student.

#### Role of Administrators:

In addition to the responsibilities outlined above under School Staff, the principal or designate will:

1. Ensure there is a process in place to collate and share with staff the information on the students potentially life-threatening medical condition.
2. Encourage the identification of staff who can support the daily or routine management needs of students in the school with a potentially life-threatening medical condition, while honouring the provisions of any Collective Agreements.

3. Designate time for school staff and/or response teams to practice.
4. Ensure the parents/ guardians are aware of their duty to notify the school of their child's diagnosis, and any changes to their child's condition. The Principal has the right to request further information if the information provided is not adequate for appropriate planning within the school environment.
5. Ensure a Medical Management Plan is co-created, reviewed, or updated by the parent, in consultation with the student and school staff annually or as soon as possible for new registration, or following a new diagnosis.
6. Share the Medical Management Plan with all parties identified in the plan, as authorized by the parent. A copy shall be housed in the cumulative folder.
7. Ensure a process is in place to support students with a potentially life-threatening medical condition on field trips, excursions, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and include their plan of care with all other materials required for these events (ex. emergency medication, specialized equipment)
8. Identify a response team in the Medical Management Plan, who can support and respond to the needs of the student during an episode and throughout recovery. The school team must consist of a minimum of two staff members.
9. Communicate with staff their roles and responsibilities to support a student with a potentially life-threatening medical condition and review the student's Medical Management Plan as well as provide students specific training for those on the response team.
10. Ensure there is a process in place by which all relevant occasional staff are informed of the presence of a student with a life-threatening condition and are provided with a copy of the student's Medical Management Plan and emergency evacuation plan, as authorized by the parent / guardians.
11. Develop a plan to respond to an emergency during a school emergency such as evacuation, hold and secure, lockdown, or during transportation provided by Good Spirit School Division.
12. Document in the medical management template and communicate with parent/ guardians an emergency, including the administration of emergency medication, as outlined in the Medical Management Plan.
13. Implement strategies that reduce the risk of exposure to environmental triggers that can cause an episode.
14. Debrief a life-threatening emergency with staff, as appropriate, to review the Medical Management Plan.
15. Ensure that medication and medical supplies are safely stored.

16. Communicate with parents in medical emergencies as outlined in the Medical Management Plan.
17. Consider generic procedures that can be posted to support staff in the case of a medical emergency.

**Role of the Parent/Guardians:**

As primary caregivers of their child, parents/guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of their child's condition while the child is at school and at school related activities. Parents/Guardians are expected to:

1. Inform the school of their child's potentially life-threatening medical condition.
2. Participate in the co-creation, review and updating of the Medical Management Plan and other required forms annually, upon registration, and following any changes or new diagnosis.
3. Provide the school with any individualized equipment (ex. helmet, epi pen, glucose monitoring system) identified in the Medical Management Plan to protect the safety of the student.
4. Communicate with school staff about arrangements and considerations for field trips, excursions, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and work experience placements.
5. Encourage their child to wear medical alert identification.
6. Educate their child about their potentially life-threatening medical condition and support them to reach their full potential for self-management and self-advocacy.
7. Immediately inform school administration or designate regarding any changes to their child's health, lifestyle, procedures, management, and emergency contact information.
8. Provide a treatment protocol that is annually reviewed and signed by the child's physician.
9. All medication sent to the school dealing with life threatening conditions must be in a container labeled by a pharmacy or doctor outlining the medication name, dose, and child's name.

**Role of the Students:**

Depending on their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical stage of development, and their capacity for self-management, students shall actively support the development and implementation of their Medical Management Plan. Students are expected to:

1. Wear their medical alert identification at all times.
2. Communicate with their parents and school staff if they are facing challenges related to their condition at school.

3. Participate in the development and review of their Medical Management Plan to promote an understanding of the plan and develop their potential for self-advocacy.
4. Promptly inform, if possible, an adult that they have a sensory change from their baseline that may be a sign of a trigger or of any challenges that may be facing related to their condition.
5. Inform school staff and or peers if there is a medical emergency.

#### Role of the Transportation Department:

Transportation plays a key role in supporting the student's safe, accepting, and healthy extension of the learning environment allowing students to participate in school to their fullest potential. The Transportation Department is expected to:

1. Annually review the Medical Management Plan with bus drivers.
2. Ensure the information for safe evacuation or medical responses are available at all times to ensure the bus driver is informed.
3. Ensure the privacy of students is maintained at all times.
4. Work in collaboration with designated Student Services and school teams to provide opportunity for practice of Medical Management Plans.

#### Definitions

**Anaphylaxis** is a sudden and severe allergic reaction, which can be fatal, requiring immediate medical emergency measures be taken.

**Diabetes** is a chronic disease, in which the body either cannot produce insulin or cannot properly use the insulin it produces.

**Seizures** is a burst of uncontrolled electrical activity between brain cells (also called neurons or nerve cells) that causes temporary abnormalities in muscle tone or movements (stiffness, twitching or limpness), behaviors, sensations or states of awareness.

**Ex. Epilepsy** is a neurological condition which affects the nervous system. Epilepsy is also known as a seizure disorder or by many people as convulsions.

#### Other: any other medical condition

**Ex. Asthma** is a chronic, inflammatory disease of the airways in the lungs.

#### Resources

- [Anaphylaxis in Schools & Other Settings](#)
- [Canadian Diabetes Association](#)
- [Supporting Students with Potentially Life Threatening Medical Condition](#)