

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH ALLERGIES

In order to properly implement the policy pertaining to the management of allergies, the following administrative regulations are hereby established. The primary concern of the school is the prevention and appropriate treatment of potentially severe allergic reaction, anaphylaxis. Consider the following avoidance strategies due to the fact that risk can never be fully eliminated in the school environment:

- A) It is the responsibility of the anaphylactic/potentially anaphylactic child's parents to inform the school principal of their child's allergy.
- B) All staff members need to be made aware of the children with allergies.
- C) Each child should wear a Medical Alert bracelet that states his or her allergy/ies and the location of his/her auto-injector(s) (e.g. EpiPen®). It cannot be presumed that children/adults will self-administer their auto-injector. (The individual might not be able to self-administer while having a reaction.)
- D) Given that anaphylaxis can be triggered by minute amounts of allergen, food anaphylactic children must be encouraged to follow certain guidelines:
 - 1. To eat only food which they have brought from home unless it is packaged, clearly labeled and approved by their parents.
 - 2. Wash hands before eating.
 - 3. Not share food, utensils or containers.
 - 4. Place food on a napkin or wax paper rather than in direct contact with a desk or table.
- E) Parents/Guardians should be encouraged to instruct their children on how to avoid contact with substances to which they are allergic.
- F) Posters describing the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and the use of the auto-injector(s) should be posted in relevant classrooms and the office.
- G) Additional auto-injectors should be brought on field trips. If the location is remote, it is recommended that the organizer of the field trip carry a cell phone as well.
- H) Training:
 - 1. Each year there should be awareness sessions for students and training for all staff, which includes a demonstration on the use of the auto-injectors.
 - 2. Substitute teachers will review the Anaphylaxis Alert posters for children in their class and to review emergency protocol with the designated staff.

- I) **Treatment Protocol:** An individual treatment protocol needs to be established by the child's doctor. The school cannot assume responsibility for treatment in the absence of such a protocol. A copy of this should be present in the office. Adults must be encouraged to listen to the concerns of the anaphylactic child. The child usually knows when s/he is having a reaction, even before signs appear. To manage an emergency, a practice has been established:
1. One person is to stay with the injured individual at all times.
 2. One person will go for help.
 3. Administer auto-injector at the first sign of reaction, however slight (e.g. itching or swelling of the lips/mouth in food allergic children). There are no contraindications to the use of auto-injector for a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Note time of administration.
 4. Call 911, regardless of the degree of reaction or response to auto-injector, transfer the child to an emergency room. Note: Symptoms may recur up to eight hours after exposure to allergen. Contact the child's parents. One calm and familiar person must stay with the child until a parent or guardian arrives. If the child is being driven to the hospital, it is recommended that another individual accompany the driver to provide assistance.
- J) **Allergen Awareness / Allergen Avoidance:** The question of banning anything in schools is controversial. We live in a world that is contaminated with potential allergens. Anaphylactic children must learn to avoid specific triggers. While the key responsibility lies with the anaphylactic individual and his family, in the case of a young anaphylactic child, the school community should also be aware.
- K) Provide training for staff in basic first aid and in the use of auto injections.
- L) School personnel will:
1. Personnel will take necessary measures required to prevent cross contamination during food handling, preparation, and serving of food.
 2. A no-food trading/sharing policy will be enforced. Students will also be prohibited from sharing eating utensils
 3. Surfaces, toys, and equipment shall be washed clean of allergy containing foods/substances in a timely manner.
 4. Teachers and custodial staff shall check district purchased classroom and cleaning materials to ensure that these products do not contain peanut oil or other substances harmful to students with identified allergies.

POLICY ADOPTED: 29 Jan 07
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