
STUDENTS WITH SEVERE (ANAPHYLACTIC) ALLERGIES

Background

The Division recognizes the dangers faced by students with severe or anaphylactic reactions (allergies) to foods. 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.

The Division has a supportive role to play in helping parents of students with severe allergies avoid exposure to pre-identified foods and other allergens while the student is at school, or on school buses.

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. It is the responsibility of parents with anaphylactic children to identify their children to the principal and bus driver and to ensure that their child wears an allergy alert bracelet.
2. If parents identify their child to have severe or anaphylactic reactions to specific foods, the principal will ask other parents of students in that student's class, or on that student's school bus to refrain from sending those foods to school.
 - 2.1 Regular reminders will be sent to staff, students, and parents regarding the problematic foods.
 - 2.2 If parents provide food for special occasions, they will provide complete ingredient lists.
3. The principal will request from the parents written information regarding:
 - 3.1 The foods which trigger an anaphylactic reaction;
 - 3.2 A treatment protocol, signed by the child's physician;
 - 3.3 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 (certified and non-certified) and including bus drivers must be made aware that a child with anaphylaxis is attending their school or riding their bus and that child will be identified, individually before or immediately after the child registers at the school.
5. Students will be taught of the dangers to anaphylactic students of sharing or trading lunches.
6. Parents will communicate to staff and individual bus drivers the signs of anaphylactic shock and show them how an Epi-Pen (the pen-shaped syringe loaded with adrenalin which many allergic children carry in case they have a reaction) is to be used.
7. Principals with students who have severe reactions to foods will train staff to recognize the signs of anaphylactic shock. The Department of Transportation Services will likewise train bus drivers.
8. The principal will avoid using the classroom(s) of an anaphylactic child as a lunchroom. If the classroom must be used for that purpose, it must be established as an allergen-free area, using a cooperative approach with students and parents.
9. The school staff will develop strategies for monitoring “allergen-free” areas and for identifying high-risk areas for anaphylactic students.

Reference: Section 11,33,52,53,196,197,222 Education Act
Allergy Anaphylaxis Information Response (resource kit), Alberta Education, 2008
Anaphylaxis in Schools and Other Settings, Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2005
Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards-Canadian School Boards Association

Approved: November 2005

Amended: April 5, 2005; March 21, 2018; July 1, 2018; May 4, 2020