

AP 317 – ANAPHYLAXIS

Background

The Division recognizes the dangers faced by students with severe reactions to certain allergies. While the Division cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, the Division will take reasonable steps to ensure a safe environment for students with life-threatening allergies further to the goal of maintaining an appropriate learning environment for all students.

Procedures

1. Identifying Individuals at Risk

- 1.1 Parents/Guardians of students with severe allergies must:
 - 1.1.1 Advise the Principal and home-room 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;
 - 1.1.2 Provide and keep emergency information current;
 - 1.1.3 Submit a Severe Allergy Alert Form (Form 317-1) completed by the student's physician when the student is first registered or re-registered with the Division, or when the student's severe allergies change;
 - 1.1.4 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;
 - 1.1.5 Provide snacks and lunches for the student; and
 - 1.1.6 Provide the student with a Medic Alert bracelet or other suitable identification.

2. Communication Strategies

- 2.1 The Principal must:
 - 2.1.1 Advise the parents of the student with severe allergies of this procedure and provide them with a copy;
 - 2.1.2 Ensure student allergy information is red flagged in SIS;
 - 2.1.3 Request signed authorization to administer medication (Forms 316-1 and 316-2);
 - 2.1.4 Advise all staff members of students who have potentially life threatening allergies as soon as possible;
 - 2.1.5 Request the consent of the parent to post the student's picture and display the emergency care plan;

- 2.1.6 Ensure an emergency plan is developed (refer to Forms 316-5 and F316-7) for each student with severe allergies in cooperation with the parents, and includes emergency contact information and procedures; and
- 2.1.7 Ensure the emergency plan is kept in a readily accessible location at the school and includes emergency contact information.
- 2.2 Classroom teachers of a student with a severe allergy must:
 - 2.2.1 Discuss anaphylaxis with the class, in age-appropriate terms;
 - 2.2.2 Avoid allergenic foods and substances for classroom events;
 - 2.2.3 Communicate information with other parents;
 - 2.2.4 Leave information about students with severe allergies in an organized, prominent and accessible format for substitute teachers;
 - 2.2.5 Ensure that the emergency response protocol and appropriate medication is taken on off-site activities; and
 - 2.2.6 Ensure that appropriate and knowledgeable adults accompany off-site activities.

3. Allergy Avoidance Strategies

- 3.1 Students with severe allergies must:
 - 3.1.1 Eat only foods brought from home unless authorized by the parents in writing;
 - 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 occurs or symptoms of a severe allergic reaction appear;
 - 3.1.5 Keep an injector or medication handy at all times; and
 - 3.1.6 When age appropriate, know how to use an injector or take medication.
- 3.2 Adult supervision of young children while eating is strongly recommended.
- 3.3 Parents should work closely with foodservice staff to ensure that food being served during lunch and snack programs is appropriate.
- 3.4 The use of food in crafts and cooking classes may need to be altered or restricted depending on children's allergies.
- 3.5 Ingredients on food brought in for special events by the school community, served in school cafeteria, or provided by catering companies should be clearly identified.
- 3.6 All children are to be encouraged to comply with a "no eating" rule during daily travel on school buses.
- 3.7 Surfaces are to be carefully cleaned of contaminating foods.

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, on the school protocol for responding to emergencies and this administrative procedure.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 175, 188, 190 Education Act
Emergency Medical Aid Act
Anaphylaxis in Schools and Other Child Care Settings by Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2005 (www.csaci.ca/schools.html)