

ANAPHYLAXIS/LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

Background

Anaphylaxis is the term used to describe a life threatening allergic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction can develop within seconds of exposure to an allergen and if left untreated will quickly lead to death.

The District is committed to the principle of providing a safe learning environment for its students. This includes providing a safe environment for those with life threatening allergies identified as having the potential for an anaphylactic reaction.

Having an anaphylaxis/life threatening allergy action plan in place that includes reducing exposure to allergens, providing information and developing awareness for the entire school community, training school staff in prevention measures and adrenaline pen administration, and having emergency response procedures in case of accidental exposure is an expectation for the support of students with life threatening allergies.

It is the responsibility of parents with children who have anaphylaxis/life threatening allergies to identify their children to the Principal.

In the event of an anaphylactic event, District employees may administer adrenaline pens to students in accordance with documented medical authorization and instructions.

Procedures

1. Students who have identified at risk for anaphylaxis/life threatening allergy and:
 - 1.1 Require specific arrangements for maintaining a safe and healthy environment, and
 - 1.2 Need to take emergency medication in response to exposure to a potential allergen while at schoolshall have a plan of action developed by the Principal in partnership with the student's parents, the classroom teacher, and if age appropriate the student, for maintaining a reasonable level of safety and wellbeing for the student with anaphylaxis/life threatening allergies. This process will include developing an emergency response plan in the case of accidental exposure to a life threatening allergen.
2. The plan of action shall consist of the following procedures.
 - 2.1 The parent(s) will inform the Principal about the student's potential for anaphylaxis and life threatening allergies.
 - 2.2 Registration forms will be completed that identify student allergies or health concerns. Parents shall provide the Principal with completed District Forms – *Anaphylactic – Life Threatening Allergy Plan (Plan 317-1)*, *Request for Administration of Medication at School (Form 316-1)* (this form includes parental consent, physician's orders and other significant data). In each school, the Principal will find copies of these forms in the "School Health Resource Book", which is supplied and updated by the Public Health Nurses.

- 2.3 Parents of the student with life threatening allergies must meet with the Principal and classroom teacher prior to the student's first day in school or anytime there is a change in condition.
- 2.4 The Principal is responsible for implementing a procedure to ensure that all school staff including teachers on call (TOC) are aware of the student with anaphylaxis/life threatening allergy, the anaphylaxis/life threatening allergy plan, and emergency procedures. Prominent notation of the existence of a medical request form shall be made on the student's "Permanent School Record Card" (Medic Alert).
- 2.5 Parents are responsible for instructing their child on wearing a medical alert device, to eat only foods prepared by the parent, on ways of avoiding contact with substances he or she is allergic to, and when age appropriate on how to administer emergency medication. School staff must not rely on the ability of a student to administer his or her adrenaline medication.
- 2.6 After discussion with parents and the child with a life threatening allergy, parents of other students are to be appropriately informed about life threatening allergies and requested to reduce exposure to allergens and in the case of life threatening food allergies to avoid including foods containing the allergens in school lunches and snacks.
- 2.7 Principals shall review all food related activities to maintain a reasonable level of safety for the student identified at risk for anaphylaxis/life threatening allergy with consideration to:
 - 2.7.1 Procedures to be followed when a product containing the allergen has been identified and brought to the classroom
 - 2.7.2 elimination of allergens from food products prepared for all school sports activities and school community functions
 - 2.7.3 education of the student parent community, staff, and food handlers
 - 2.7.4 hand washing procedures
 - 2.7.5 emergency procedures in cases of accidental exposure
3. Principals must have a protocol in place to ensure those responding to an anaphylaxis emergency know what to do. The emergency protocol to include:
 - 3.1 Administer EpiPen ;
 - 3.2 Call 911 and ask for an Advance Life Support Ambulance;
 - 3.3 Call student's parents/guardians;
 - 3.4. Administer a second EpiPen within 10 minutes if symptoms have not improved;
 - 3.5. Have student transported to hospital by ambulance.
4. Medication Administration and Maintenance
 - 4.1 If the medication required must be administered for more than a school year, a new request form shall be completed in September of each year and the previous form destroyed by the school administrator.
 - 4.2 Early in the school year, parents shall be informed through the school's newsletter that if their children require medication to be administered at school, the District "Request for Administration of Medication at School" form ([Form 316-1](#)) is available from the school and must be completed and returned to the Principal.

- 4.3 Parents shall provide and replace when outdated all required medication for the treatment of anaphylaxis/life threatening allergies.
 - 4.4 Attention to the expiry date of all medication being kept in school for the student is necessary to ensure the medication is not outdated. The Principal will develop a process for reviewing expiry dates of medications administered for anaphylaxis/life threatening allergies.
 - 4.5 If a student who requires medication at school participates in a curricular or extra-curricular field trip, the designated staff member shall inform the supervising staff member of the student's need for medication. If required, parents shall provide adequate instruction and training for the field trip supervisor concerning the administration of the medication.
- 5 Principals are to refer to the following resources:
- 5.1 Canadian School Boards Association (Sept 2001). [Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards. pp 70](#)
 - 5.2 Additional support is available from the public health nurse for consultation and District employee training.

Reference: Sections 7, 17, 20, 22, 65, 84, 85, 95 School Act
School Regulation 265/89
Anaphylaxis Protection Order M232/07
Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards, Canadian School Boards Association
British Columbia Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework

Adopted: June 20, 2007
Amended: April 23, 2012; September 1, 2018