

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.

Schools have a supportive role to play in helping parents of students with severe allergies avoid exposure to pre-identified foods while the student is at school.

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 minutes time to get the affected person to emergency care at a hospital.

Procedures

1. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians 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, school-based administration shall ask other parents in that student's class to refrain from sending those foods to school.
 - 2.1 Regular reminders shall be sent to staff, students, and parents regarding the problematic foods.
 - 2.2 If parents provide food for special occasions, they shall provide complete ingredient lists.
3. The Principal shall request from the parents/guardians 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) must be made aware that a child with anaphylaxis is attending their school and that child shall be identified, either individually or at a staff meeting before or immediately after the child registers at the school.
5. Students shall be taught of the dangers to anaphylactic students of sharing or trading lunches.

6. Parents shall communicate to staff the signs of anaphylactic shock and show staff 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. Schools with students who have severe reactions to foods shall train staff to recognize the signs of anaphylactic shock.
8. The school shall avoid using the classroom(s) of an anaphylactic child as a lunch room. 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 shall develop strategies for monitoring "allergen-free" areas and for identifying high-risk areas for anaphylactic students.

Reference: Section 18, 20, 45, 60, 61 School Act
 Emergency Medical Aid Act