

PROTOCOL FOR TREATMENT OF ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS

GOAL: To effectively manage the health and safety needs of children with life-threatening allergies.

DEFINITION: Anaphylaxis is the potentially life-threatening medical condition occurring in allergic individuals after exposure to an allergen (food, medication, insect toxin) and affecting multiple body systems.

STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES WILL:

- Learn to recognize the symptoms of allergic reaction
- Promptly inform an adult as soon as any exposure occurs or symptoms appear or is simply not feeling well.
- Not trade or share foods with anyone.
- Not eat any food item not coming from home or approved by parent or guardian.
- The role of students in staying safe at school will increase with age and their ability to assume further responsibility for their safety.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL:

- Inform the school nurse of your child's allergies prior to the opening of school or as soon as possible after a diagnosis.
- Provide a physician's order and medication for emergency medical intervention.
- Inform the school nurse, annually, of any changes in health status as relates to food allergy and treatment.
- Educate the student in the self-management of his/her food allergies appropriate for his/her age level.
- Meet with the school nurse to develop an Individualized Health Care Plan to meet the health and emergency care needs of the student.
- Provide safe snacks/treats for the student to keep in school or a list of appropriate snacks that they may have.

SCHOOL NURSE WILL:

- Prior to school entry or immediately after diagnosis of a life-threatening allergy, meet with student's parent/guardian to develop an Individualized Health Care Plan; this will be renewed annually.
- Develop an Emergency Care Plan which includes the child's name, photo, allergy, symptoms of reaction and emergency procedures per doctor's orders; this will be renewed annually and disseminated to appropriate staff.
- Obtain medication authorization forms, signed by physician, and emergency medications from parent.
- Provide appropriate storage of medications in the nurse's office, on person of student (age dependent), or in the classroom with the teacher based on evaluation of the safety of the student and safety of other students.

- Educate school staff who interact with student regarding food allergy, symptoms of allergic reaction and anaphylaxis.
- Work with teacher to eliminate the use of allergens in classroom snacks, educational tools, classroom parties, foreign language, art or craft projects.
- Train appropriate school staff in EpiPen administration.
- Plan and prepare for field trips.
- Be sure substitute nurses are fully oriented to students with life-threatening allergies and their care plans.
- Communicate with parents on a regular basis.
- Implement the ECP and direct emergency actions in the event of anaphylaxis.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS WILL:

- Participate in the development of the student's Individualized Health Care Plan.
- Review and follow the Emergency Care Plan and IHCP of any students in their classroom with life-threatening allergies.
- Always act immediately and follow ECP if student reports signs of an allergic reaction.
- Never allow a child suspected of having an allergic reaction to walk alone to the school nurse.
- Be sure volunteers, student teachers, paraprofessionals and substitute teachers are informed of student's food allergies and necessary safeguards.
- Work with school nurse to educate other classroom parents about food allergy and inform them of food restrictions in the classroom on a daily basis and for special events (birthdays/holiday celebrations).
- Prohibit students from sharing or trading snacks.
- Reinforce hand-washing before and after eating.
- Avoid use of allergenic foods for classroom activities.
- Consider non-food treats for rewards and incentives.
- Collaborate with school nurse and parents prior to planning of field trips.