

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 315

The Safety of Anaphylactic Children

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. It requires appropriate avoidance strategies and immediate response in the event of an emergency.

The Limestone District School Board and all its employees play an important role in providing a safe environment for anaphylactic students. It is essential that all members of the school community are aware of the issues facing students with anaphylaxis and develop strategies to minimize the risk of an allergic reaction, and are equipped to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency.

These procedures should be flexible enough to respond to the age and maturity of the student, (for example, with significant differences in issues faced by elementary and secondary schools), the nature and prevalence of the allergen, and the organizational and physical properties of the school itself. Some procedures will be appropriate for any life-threatening allergy. Others may be more applicable to peanut allergies in particular because of the wide-spread use and popularity of peanut products and the viscosity of peanut butter.

While the school community recognizes the right of parents and guardians to feed their children whatever they choose, it must assert that the right to life and safety is greater, and provide for the safety of anaphylactic children accordingly.

These procedures and the responsibilities outlined in the Health Issues Handbook incorporate the following three categories of activity: 1) Information and Awareness; 2) Avoidance; and 3) Action: Emergency Response Plans.

Other Related Policies, Administrative Procedures and Protocols:

Safe Environments: Administrative Procedure 140

Creating a Healthy Nutrition Environment: Administrative Procedure 210

Administration of Medication and/or Medical Procedures to Students: Administrative Procedure 314

“Anaphylaxis” is a serious allergic reaction that is potentially life-threatening. It can occur within minutes or hours after initial contact. It is systemic in nature (involving one or more body systems, i.e., the skin – hives and swelling; respiratory – hoarseness, wheezing, difficulty breathing, rapid drop in blood pressure, leading to unconsciousness); it is life-threatening, and if left untreated or under treated, can result in death.

- 1.0.0 The Limestone District School Board, hereafter referred to as “the Board”, shall implement *The Safety of Anaphylactic Students Policy* to protect anaphylactic students as determined by the practices and protocols as outlined in the *Health Issues Handbook*.
- 1.1.0 Each school shall implement *The Safety of Anaphylactic Students Policy* and the protocol specified in the *Health Issues Handbook*.

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- 1.2.0 The Board shall determine the responsibilities of principals, teachers, parents, volunteers, staff (caretaking, cafeteria, administrative, yard duty, bus drivers, lunchroom and yard monitors, etc.) and students in accordance with *The Safety of Anaphylactic Students Policy* and the *Health Issues Handbook*.

2.0.0 Responsibilities of the Principal

- 2.1.0 Each school principal, in accordance with the Safety of Anaphylactic Students Policy and the Health Issues Handbook, in order to provide safe environments for anaphylactic students, shall:
- a) In consultation with parents/guardians, develop an individual plan for each student who has an anaphylactic allergy, prior to the student's first day at school; each plan shall include:
 - (i) details informing employees and others who are in direct contact with the pupil on a regular basis of the type of allergy, monitoring and avoidance of strategies, symptom recognition and appropriate treatment;
 - (ii) a readily accessible emergency procedure for the student, including emergency contact information;
 - (iii) information about the storage of epinephrine auto-injectors, for which the parents/guardians shall be responsible for supplying and ensuring that they remain in good working condition and within any expiration dates.
 - (iv) ensure all those responsible for the welfare of the students (teachers, caretakers, cafeteria, occasional teachers, volunteers, administrative, yard duty and lunchroom monitors, bus drivers, etc.) are aware of anaphylactic students in their care and have received appropriate training in prevention, symptom recognition, and the use of epinephrine;
 - b) ensure that, upon registration, parents, guardians and pupils shall be asked to supply information on life-threatening allergies;
 - c) maintain a file for each anaphylactic student of the symptom recognition, current treatment and other information, including a copy of any prescriptions and instructions from the student's physician or nurse and a current emergency contact list;
 - d) investigate and ensure reasonable planning takes place with respect to food (i.e. fundraisers, celebrations, bake sales, field trips and school rental bookings);

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- e) implement an emergency drill, taught and practiced in the event of an emergency;
- f) implement a communication plan for the dissemination of information on life-threatening allergies to parents, students, staff (including bus drivers), prior to their first day at school:
 - (i) this plan shall include the school's expectations for an allergen-aware environment for the safety of its anaphylactic students;
- g) develop school procedures to respond to individuals who do not comply with The Safety of Anaphylactic Students Policy;
- h) implement strategies that reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms, common school areas, and all school-related activities (field trips, fundraisers, celebrations, rental bookings), as specified in the *Health Issues Handbook*;
- i) provide regular training on dealing with life-threatening allergies for all employees and others who are in direct contact with students on a yearly basis;
 - (i) that training shall include symptom recognition and the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector or other medication prescribed to the student for the treatment of an anaphylactic reaction, by an employee or employees;
 - (ii) such training is required in order for an employee to administer anaphylactic medication or to supervise a student while self-administering such medication in response to an anaphylactic reaction. Current medical information and the consent of the parent, guardian or student should also be in the possession of the school.
 - (iii) an up-to-date list of school personnel who have been trained shall be maintained;
- j) permit the emergency administration of epinephrine by way of auto-injector, in the absence of advance consent or otherwise, if the principal or another employee has reasonable grounds to believe that the student is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction and is at an immediate risk of harm;
- k) require that students at risk for anaphylactic reactions and for whom epinephrine auto-injectors have been prescribed have an auto-injector on

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their persons at all times, and inform parents and guardians of this requirement;

- l) provide, in a readily accessible location, and well-known to staff, a “generic” epinephrine auto-injector that can be utilized in the event of an emergency.
 - m) Convey to staff that students with anaphylactic allergies are sometimes subjected to bullying or exclusion and ensure that students who engage in such conduct are disciplined in accordance with the Board’s regular procedures.
- 3.0.0 **Responsibilities of Staff Members** (teachers, caretakers, educational assistants, cafeteria, occasional staff, volunteers, administrative, yard duty and lunchroom monitors, bus drivers, etc.)
- 3.1.0 Each staff member shall comply with the responsibilities as outlined in *The Safety of Anaphylactic Students* and the *Health Issues Handbook*.
- 3.2.0 Each staff member shall respond to an anaphylactic reaction as a medical emergency, and follow the procedures as outlined in the *Health Issues Handbook*.
- 3.3.0 Each staff member shall exercise diligence in maintaining allergen aware environments, with reduced risk of exposure to allergens by anaphylactic students, as outlined in the Health Issues Handbook.
- 3.4.0 Classroom Teachers, in particular, shall:
- a) participate in the review of the individual plan for anaphylactic students in their classroom;
 - b) discuss anaphylaxis with the class, in age-appropriate terms;
 - c) encourage students not to share/trade lunches or snacks;
 - d) choose allergy-free foods for classroom events;
 - e) establish procedures, where developmentally appropriate, to ensure that the anaphylactic child eats only what he/she brings from home;
 - f) reinforce hand washing before and after eating, as developmentally appropriate;
 - g) facilitate communication with other parents;
 - h) in cooperation with parents and the Principal, implement a buddy system, where developmentally appropriate;
 - i) follow the school policies for reducing risk in classrooms and common areas;

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- j) be diligent in recognizing that anaphylactic students are sometimes bullied or teased due to their condition, and apply discipline in accordance with the Board's regular procedures.
- k) leave information in an organized, prominent, and accessible format for occasional teachers, parents, volunteers, or others who may have casual contact;
- l) plan appropriately for field trips – ensure emergency response plans are taken.

4.0.0 Responsibilities of Parents, Guardians/Age of Majority Students

4.1.0 Parents/Guardians/Age of Majority Students shall:

- a) upon registration, and prior to the student's attendance at school, provide the school with all relevant information related to the student's anaphylaxis, including but not limited to the following:
 - (i) a list of allergens (allergic triggers);
 - (ii) typical symptoms of previous anaphylactic reactions to each allergen
 - (iii) an history of reactions;
 - (iv) information from physician, including copy of prescriptions and instructions;
 - (v) an emergency contact information;
- b) provide the school with a regular update of above information, and immediately if there is any change in anaphylactic status or related information;
- c) ensure that the anaphylactic student is provided with an epinephrine auto-injector in good working condition and within any expiration date, or other medication prescribed to the student for the treatment of anaphylactic reaction;
- d) ensure that the student has the prescribed epinephrine auto-injector on his/her person at all times;
- e) ensure that, where prescribed, a second epinephrine auto-injector, in good working condition and within any expiration date, be provided to the school to be used in the event of an emergency;
- f) provide a medic alert identification for the student;

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- g) In the case of parents/guardians, teach their child the following and in the case of age of majority students, inform themselves of the following:
- to recognize first symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction
 - to know where medication is kept and who can get it
 - to communicate clearly when he/she feels a reaction starting, i.e. “I am having a reaction”, or “I think I am having a reaction” if they are worried
 - to carry his/her own auto-injector in a safe fashion, as developmentally appropriate
 - not to share snacks, lunches, or drinks
 - the importance of hand washing
 - to take as much responsibility as possible for his/her own safety
 - to self regulate – “no epinephrine, no food, no drink”

5.0.0 Responsibilities of Anaphylactic Students

5.1.0 Anaphylactic students shall:

- (a) normally carry upon their persons, at all times and where prescribed, an up-to-date epinephrine auto-injector, or other medication prescribed to the student for the treatment of an anaphylactic reaction;
- (b) in secondary school, prior to the student’s first day at school, meet with his or her teachers and parents/guardians to determine the needs and uphold the responsibilities requested of him or her;
- (c) be encouraged to acquaint their peers with the nature of their anaphylaxis and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction;
- (d) wear medic alert identification
- (e) inform others, and especially supervising adults, if they are experiencing any symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction where possible;
- (f) exercise extreme diligence in avoiding exposure to the risk of contact with allergens, as outlined in the *Health Issues Handbook*;
- (g) eat only foods brought from home or approved for consumption;
- (h) wash hands before eating;
- (i) take as much responsibility as possible for avoiding allergens;
- (j) follow the rule, “no epinephrine, no food, no drink”.

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6.0.0 Responsibilities of All Parents

6.1.0 All parents shall:

- (a) respond cooperatively to requests from school to eliminate or curtail specific allergens or foods from packed lunches and snacks;
- (b) become informed about anaphylaxis issues in their school, by participating in parent sessions or reading literature provided by the school, etc.
- (c) encourage children to recognize the critical nature of anaphylaxis and respect procedures and policies to keep their peers safe.

7.0.0 Responsibilities of All Students

7.1.0 All students shall:

- a) learn to recognize symptoms of anaphylactic reactions;
- b) avoid sharing food, especially with anaphylactic students;
- c) follow school rules about keeping allergens out of the classroom and washing hands;
- d) refrain from bullying or teasing a student with a food allergy.

Legal References:

Sabrina's Law Bill 3 Ontario January 2005

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