

ANAPHYLAXIS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction that may involve systems of the entire body. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical treatment and follow-up care by an allergist/immunologist.

The South Kitsap School District Board of Directors expects school administrators, teachers and support staff to be informed and aware of life threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) and how to deal with the resulting medical emergencies. For students, some common life threatening allergens are peanuts, tree nuts, fish, bee or other insect stings, latex and some medications. Affected students require planned care and support during the school day and during school sponsored activities.

Parents/guardians are responsible for informing the school about their student's potential risk for anaphylaxis and for ensuring the provision of ongoing health information and necessary medical supplies. The district will take reasonable measures to avoid allergens for affected students. The district will also train all staff in the awareness of anaphylaxis and prepare them to respond to emergencies. Additionally, student specific training will be provided for appropriate personnel.

Even with the district's best efforts, staff and parents/guardians need to be aware that it is not possible to achieve a completely allergen-free environment. However, the district will take precautions to reduce the risk of a student having an anaphylactic reaction by developing strategies to minimize the presence of allergens in schools.

The district will maintain at designated school locations a supply of epinephrine auto injectors based on the number of students enrolled at the school. Undesignated epinephrine auto injectors must be obtained with a prescription in the name of the school district by a licensed health professional within the scope of their prescribing authority and must be accompanied by a standing order protocol for their administration.

In the event a student with a current prescription for an epinephrine auto injector on file at the school experiences an anaphylactic event, the school nurse or designated trained school personnel may use the school supply of epinephrine auto injectors to respond if the student's supply is not immediately available. In the event a student with a current prescription for epinephrine on file with the school or undiagnosed anaphylaxis experiences an anaphylactic event, only the school nurse may utilize the school supply of epinephrine to respond under the standing order protocol.

The school's supply of epinephrine auto injectors does not negate parent/guardian responsibility to ensure that they provide the school with appropriate medication and treatment orders pursuant to RCW 28A.210.320 if their student is identified with a life-threatening allergy.

This document is intended for guidance related to stock epinephrine to be used by the South Kitsap School District Board of Directors, Superintendent, and building teams, as well as the parent/guardian in providing a safe environment and reasonable care for students with life-threatening allergies. It does not constitute a mandate nor imply liability should the school choose other options for care. (i.e. cost to supply stock epinephrine if not received through free program) While this policy contains recommendations that represent best practice, the school district and health professionals must determine the appropriateness of care developed to each individual student in the unique situation in which the practice within the parameters of existing laws and regulations. (i.e. delegation vs. designation by nurses to staff) (WAC 392-380/RCW 28A.210.383)

In accordance with the provisions listed above, the South Kitsap School District, its employees and agents are not liable as a result of any injury arising from the administration of epinephrine to a student or nonstudent unless an act or omission is the result of gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or an intentional tort. (i.e. liability to district, staff, registered nurses, or the prescribing licensed health professional)

The superintendent will establish procedures to support this policy and to ensure:

1. Rescue protocol in cases of suspected anaphylaxis will follow OSPI's Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis (2009);
2. A simple and standardized format for emergency care plans is utilized;
3. A protocol is in place to ensure emergency care plans are current and completed;
4. Medication orders are clear and unambiguous;
5. Training and documentation is a priority; *and*
6. Each school's supply of epinephrine auto injectors, if any, is maintained pursuant to manufacturer's instructions and district medication policy and procedures.

Cross References:

3420 - Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response
3419 - Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications
3418 - Emergency Treatment
3416 - Medication at School
Staff Model for the Delivery of School Health Services, OSPI & WA State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission 2000
Administration of Medications, WSNA, March 2012

Legal References:

WAC 392-380 Public School Pupils—Immunization Requirement and Life-Threatening Health Conditions
WAC 246.840.010(7) - Definitions: Delegation)

RCW 28A.210.383 Anaphylaxis — Policy guidelines — Procedures — Reports.

RCW 28A.210.320 Children with life-threatening health conditions — Medication or treatment orders — Rules.

Management Resources: 2013 - December Issue
2012 - August Issue
2009 - February Issue
OSPI, March 2009 Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis

Adoption Date: June 23, 2015

Classification: Essential