

Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response

Life threatening anaphylactic reactions can be reduced in the school setting. These reactions can come from an allergy producing substance (allergen), be it a food, insect, latex, medication, chemical, or other environmental allergen. The key to making sure students are safe in school and while at school activities, such as field trips and athletic events, depends heavily on the parent educating their child and school staff about their child's allergy management. A partnership between the parents, the child's health care provider and school staff is vital to educate everyone involved about student allergies and how to respond in the event that an allergic reaction takes place.

For students with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy (**anaphylaxis**), the district will take appropriate steps for the student's safety, including implementing a nursing care plan (**also known as an emergency care plan**). The district will utilize the Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis published by the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

Prior to enrolling a student, the parent/guardian will inform the school in writing of the medically diagnosed allergy(ies) and risk of anaphylaxis. Upon receiving the diagnosis, school staff will contact the parent/guardian to develop a nursing care plan. A nursing care plan will be developed for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy.

The parent/guardian will work with the school team (team could include: parent, student, principal, school nurse, classroom teacher, lunch room aide, and an office team member) to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school, including in the classroom, in the cafeteria and during school-sponsored activities. The development of the plan would involve the parent supplying the school with any medical information, medication and supplies needed to accommodate the student at school.

Nursing Care Plan (**Emergency Care Plan**)

The written plan will identify the student's allergies, symptoms of exposure, practical strategies to minimize the risks and how to respond in an emergency.

The principal or designee (school nurse) may arrange a meeting (*or telephone call*) with the parent/guardian prior to the first day of attendance to develop and discuss the nursing care plan. The plan will be developed by the parent, school nurse and appropriate school staff. If the treatment plan includes self-administration of medications, the parents, students and staff will comply with **Ephrata School District** policy and procedure 3419, *Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication*.

Annually and prior to the first day of attendance, the student health file will contain: 1) a completed nursing care plan; 2) a written description of the treatment order, signed by a licensed health care provider; and 3) an adequate and current, **unexpired**, supply of auto-injectors (or other medications). The school will also recommend to the parents that a medical alert bracelet be worn by the student at all times. The parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school if the student's condition changes and for providing the medical treatment order, the auto-injectors and medications.

Students who have a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy and no medication or treatment order presented to the school, will be excluded from school to the extent that the district can do so consistent with federal requirements for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, **as specified in Ephrata**

School District policy 3413, *Student Immunization and Life-Threatening Health Conditions*, and pursuant to the following due process requirements:

- A. Written notice to the parents, guardians or persons in loco parentis is delivered in person or by certified mail;
- B. Notice of the applicable laws, including a copy of the laws and rules; and
- C. The order that the student will be excluded from school immediately and until a medications or a treatment order is presented.

Communications Plan and Responsibility of School Staff

After the nursing care plan is developed, the school principal or a designee will inform appropriate staff regarding the affected student. The school nurse (R.N.) will train appropriate staff regarding the affected student and the nursing care plan. The plan will be distributed to appropriate staff and placed in appropriate locations in the district (class room, office, school bus, lunchroom etc.). With the permission of parents/guardian and the student, (if appropriate), other students and parents may be given information about the student's condition.

Epinephrine, an emergency medication, may only stop anaphylactic allergic symptoms for a short period of time – when epinephrine is administered in a school setting, 911/Emergency Medical Services will be contacted by school staff immediately.

In-service Training

Annually, each school principal will provide an in-service training on how to minimize exposure and how to respond to an anaphylaxis emergency. The training will include a review of avoidance strategies, recognition of symptoms, the emergency protocols to deal with an anaphylaxis episode and use of an auto injector.

Student specific training and additional information will be provided (by the school nurse) to teachers, teacher's assistants, clerical staff, food service workers and bus drivers who will have known contact with a diagnosed student.

Controlling the Exposure to Allergens

Controlling the exposure to allergens requires the cooperation of parents, students, the health care community, school employees and the board. The district will inform parents of the presence of a student with life threatening allergies in their child's classroom and/or school and the measures being taken to protect the affected student. Parents will be asked to cooperate and avoid including the allergen in school lunches and snacks or other products. The district will discourage the sharing of food, utensils and containers.

The district will also identify high-risk events and areas for students with life-threatening allergies, such as foods and beverages brought to school for seasonal events, school equipment and curricular materials used by large numbers of students (play-dough, stuffed toys, science projects, etc.)

During school-sponsored activities, appropriate supervisors **and** staff will be made aware of the identity of the student with life-threatening allergies, the allergens, symptoms and treatment. The lead teacher **and/or the designated medication administration trained school district employee** will ensure that the **emergency medication(s)** is brought on field trips.

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