

FOOD ALLERGY/SENSITIVITY PROTOCOL

Scarborough Public Schools recognizes that diagnosed food allergies and sensitivities may pose a significant threat to the health of some students. It is the practice of Scarborough Public Schools to work with students, parents, staff and medical personnel to minimize risks and foster a safe educational environment for food-allergic and food sensitive students.

As an educational institution, it is the responsibility of Scarborough Public Schools to increase awareness of all students, including: their needs; the dangers they face; preventative measures to be taken; signs of allergic reactions; and medical response, should a student have an allergic reaction.

To the extent appropriate to the student's age, the student will be encouraged to take responsibility for minimizing his/her risk of an allergic reaction. Parents are expected to educate their child on managing his/her allergy, and to work collaboratively with school staff on managing the allergy while at school.

The schools will solicit voluntary cooperation from parents and students toward reducing the risk that food-allergic students will come in contact or proximity with foods that cause their particular allergic reaction or sensitivity in school or at school activities. Bans on particular foods, by classroom or whole school, will not be enacted, as such is not a realistic or effective response.

Parent/Guardian:

- Will notify the school nurse of their child's allergy, severity of symptoms, and provide other pertinent health information, including allergy plan if appropriate.
- Will educate their child regarding his/her food allergies/sensitivities, and will work collaboratively with school staff to promote their child's ability to access his/her education safely and successfully.
- Will bring medication and the necessary supplies to the school to have available in the event of an allergic reaction. A medication permission form or allergy emergency action plan must be completed and signed by the parent and the student's physician on an annual basis.
- Will monitor expiration date on medications that they have provided, and replace as needed.
- Will promptly inform the school nurse of any changes in their child's health status.
- Will be encouraged to provide special snacks that their child may choose instead of classroom group snacks. Alternatively, with sufficient notice, the parent/guardian may request that the school provide a substitute snack.
- Will notify the bus driver of their child's allergy, location of their emergency medication, and request for preferential seating.

Student:

- Will be encouraged to wear a medical identification accessory, such as a medical alert bracelet/necklace.
- Will notify staff immediately, to the extent that they are capable, if experiencing symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Will notify staff immediately if an ingestion or concern of ingestion occurs.
- Will utilize frequent hand washing.
- Will make food choices based on his/her known allergies, as developmentally appropriate.
- Will be proactive in the management of his/her allergy, as developmentally appropriate.
- Will carry own supplies as appropriate with permission from parent, guardian, physician, and school nurse.

School Nurse:

- Will review Scarborough Public Schools Food Allergy/Sensitivity Protocol annually.
- Will review Scarborough Public Schools Life-Threatening Allergy Protocol annually.
- Will, upon parental/guardian request, confer with parent/guardian to discuss allergy, severity of symptoms, and individual treatment plan.
- Will review food allergy information with cafeteria supervisor annually and as needed.
- Will notify appropriate school staff, via a medical alert, of any student identified with known allergies.
- Will notify appropriate school staff of student Food Allergy Emergency Plans, health plans, treatment plans, and/or classroom safety protocols.
- Will send the provided medical supplies for a specific student with the student or appropriate staff if the student leaves the building on a field trip.
- Will notify the school administrative unit and parent/guardian whenever an epinephrine auto-injector is used.
- Will train appropriate school personnel annually in EpiPen administration and the care of the student with allergies, to include recognition of allergic symptoms.

School Administrative Unit:

- May supply each school building with an epinephrine auto-injector for students with unknown allergies who present with a life-threatening situation. Epinephrine will be stored, clearly labeled, in an easily accessible area, within the health clinic.
- Will participate in a follow up discussion with parent/guardian and appropriate staff after an emergency requiring the use of epinephrine.
- May post common signage at main entrances to school buildings to alert incoming persons of life-threatening allergies/sensitivities of students in the building.
- May post common signage at the entrance to each classroom in which the affected student attends, to alert incoming persons of the life-threatening allergies/sensitivities of the student in the room.
- May notify parents of children enrolled in specific classrooms of the presence of students with life-threatening allergies/sensitivities and the precautions to be taken.
- Will post Food Allergy/Sensitivity Protocol and Life-Threatening Allergy Protocol on school website.

Designated School Staff:

- Will follow Scarborough Public Schools Life-Threatening Allergy Protocol.
- Will be trained annually in EpiPen administration and the care of the student with allergies, including the recognition of allergic symptoms.
- Will always accompany a student/patient to the clinic if signs of an allergic reaction are evident.
- Will follow student Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plans and/or health plans, if indicated.
- Will discourage students from sharing food items and encourage frequent hand washing.
- Will maintain current medical information and notify substitute teachers of the medical needs of students with allergies.
- Will notify school nurse and/or parent/guardian of an upcoming field trip in a timely manner.
- Will take field trip packs with all necessary supplies, that have been provided by parent/guardian for the allergic child, on all field trips.
- Will, upon parental request, have children with life-threatening allergies sit at an assigned table during snack/lunch.

Nutrition Staff:

- Will be notified by supervisor of students identified with food allergies.
- Will familiarize themselves with students who have been identified as having life-threatening food allergies.
- Will follow procedures to minimize cross-contamination.

Custodial Staff:

- Will be trained by supervisor on proper cleaning of tables in the cafeteria to minimize cross-contamination.

Bus Drivers:

- Will have a method of promptly communicating emergency calls.
- Will respond to emergencies appropriately as per their training.
- Will, upon parent request, provide preferential seating for students with life-threatening allergies/sensitivities.