

Title: Emergency Response To Life-Threatening Asthma or Systematic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

Emergency response will be provided to students, staff members or visitors of the school in the event of a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction during the school day. Designated employees of the school district will be familiar with the location of emergency equipment and supplies trained in the use of the emergency response procedures and Life-threatening asthma consists of an acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary.

A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure fails, the pulse becomes weak and death can occur. Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications.

LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS (Any of these symptoms may occur):

- Chest tightness,
- Wheezing,
- Severe shortness of breath,
- Retractions (chest or neck “sucked in”),
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color),
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety or lethargy,
- A hunched-over position or
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two word phrases or complete inability to speak.

SYMPTOMS OF ALLERGIC REACTION (Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds).

- skin: warmth, itching, and/or tingling of mouth/lips, flushing, hives,
- watery eyes,
- red eyes and/or
- sneezing.

THESE SYMPTOMS MAY PROGRESS TO MORE SERIOUS AND/OR POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING REACTIONS.

- Oral/Respiratory: swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction,

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- Cardiovascular: low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse) and
- Mental status: apprehension, anxiety, restlessness or irritability when combined with other symptoms.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

When symptoms indicate the need for an emergency response, the following protocol shall be followed:

- Call 911,
- Summon school nurse or Health Associate if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement emergency protocol,
- Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate and pulse,
- Administer medications (EpiPen and albuterol) per individual's standing order,
- Determine cause as quickly as possible,
- Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.),
- Contact parents as soon as possible,

Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine (EpiPen) at school will be transferred to a medical facility.

Approved: Aug. 26, 2008

Reviewed: _____

Revised: May 28, 2019

April 23, 2024