

The Role of the School Nurse

1. The nurse shall develop an individualized health care plan (IHP) for the student diagnosed with food allergies in consultation with the student's parent/guardian and physician. The plan shall be developed with prevention of exposure to allergens as a primary goal. The plan shall be shared with the parent and all necessary school personnel.
2. The nurse shall develop a Food Allergy Medical Alert Plan (individual emergency care plan) for the student who is diagnosed with food allergies according to district policy and procedure. The plan shall also follow emergency response procedures for the building.
 - The nurse shall submit a list (without names) to the Pennsauken EMS Department stating the how many students in the building have a food allergy with the potential for anaphylaxis and medical orders for administering epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism in the event of life-threatening reaction. This information will be updated as needed.
3. The nurse shall administer any medication prescribed by the physician or advanced practice nurse following the written orders and according to district policy.
 - The nurse shall keep all epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism in a secure, unlocked location. Staff will be informed as to the location of this medication. The location will be written in the IHP and the Food Allergy Medical Alert plan.
4. The nurse shall delegate additional school staff members who volunteer and are acceptable candidates to administer epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism to a student for anaphylaxis when the nurse is not physically present at the scene following procedures outlined in The Emergency Administration of Epinephrine Policy (5141.21).
5. At the elementary level, the nurse, with consent of the parent/guardian, shall distribute a letter to all parents/guardians of the classmates of the identified student as deemed appropriate. The letter will discuss food allergy and the "No Food Trading/Sharing" rule for students. This letter is recommended for students in lower elementary grades.
6. The nurse and the classroom teacher shall provide age-appropriate lessons in the identified student's class to provide awareness and sensitivity to all students regarding food allergies as needed.
7. The nurse shall provide staff education regarding food allergies in the following manner:

- Student-specific food allergy education with the building principal, secretary and all teachers and staff of the identified student.
 - Student-specific food allergy education with the staff assigned to the identified student's lunch period.
 - Student-specific food allergy education with transportation personnel assigned to the identified student's school.
 - Inservice education to all staff in the identified student's assigned building regarding food allergies.
 - Provide inservice education regarding food allergies, as needed, to all substitute teachers and staff.
 - Provide inservice education regarding food allergies to all building Food Services staff with the goal of prevention.
8. The nurse shall ensure a safe procedure in the cafeteria for the child with food allergies. This procedure will be outlined in the individualized health care plan and will be reviewed with all school staff involved with breakfast and lunch monitoring.
- On the elementary level, at the student's assigned school, where the lunch is served but not necessarily prepared, an information card will be posted within the kitchen. This information card will contain information regarding dietary restrictions, allergies, and food substitutions. A picture of the student will be displayed on the card with parental permission.
 - At the secondary level (Intermediate, Middle and High Schools), the food allergy information is entered into the PCS / Point of Sale Computer System that identifies the student and defines any subsidy on their student card. The food allergy information shall be provided by the student's physician medical statement.
 - The nurse shall be available to all Food Services staff to answer questions regarding ingredients of food products with the potential for allergic reactions.
9. The nurse shall meet with the student periodically to review daily prevention and emergency procedures. This will aid the student in developing skills to manage his/her allergy as they mature and allow the nurse to assess the progress of this skill development.