Allergies in the School Setting

The Webster Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment for all students. Allergies can be a significant health problem or life threatening.. Successful allergy management is a partnership among the parent/guardian(s), the student, the prescribing physician and the school system. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify their child's school of their child's allergies at the beginning of each school year. The student's physician must be involved in the diagnosis and treatment plan that the school will follow for students with diagnosed food allergies while in school or at any school-sponsored event. The plan must be reviewed annually **and** revised as needed. No student will be excluded from school activities based solely on his/her allergies.

The Webster Public Schools are considered "peanut sensitive/peanut aware." The purpose of this policy awareness, communication and emergency response.

The consumption of food on routine bus routes is prohibited. Under the appropriate supervision of school personnel for longer school trips and for students with special health needs requiring the consumption of food at non-meals, food may be allowed on school buses.

School nurses may provide food to students when the medical status of the student indicates a need. and guidelines is to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to the student(s) in the Webster Public Schools and to provide all students, through necessary accommodations where needed, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities, and to educate the school community about life threatening allergies (LTAs). We recognize that it is not possible to eliminate all potential exposures.

Legal References;

MGL **71**

105 CMR 210.000

FERPA/HIPPA

Legal Issues in School Health Services

Managing Life Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education (2002)

Webster Public Schools LTA

Protocol:

1. **Celebrations and Events**

Wherever possible, parents and teachers are encouraged to consider providing a non-food related item to celebrate a child's birthday or other special event (i.e. pencils, stickers, books, etc.). All birthdays for the month will be celebrated on the last Friday of each month in order to decrease the number of food celebrations in the classroom and to limit the impact to time on learning. Food items for the celebration of birthdays within that month may be provided by parents/guardians as a treat for their child's classmates as long as:

- The food items are from the Safe Snack GuideTM by SnackSafely.com, The food items comply with the food safety of any students in the class with known food allergies.
- The food items are individually wrapped and prepackaged by the company that manufactures them.
- No homemade foods will be permitted due to the difficulty in ascertaining ingredients. For all school sponsored food events the teacher will review the student allergy list with the school nurse and notify the parent/guardian of any students with food allergies at least **7** school days prior to the event.
- For school sponsored events, the nutrition labels for all food served must be collected and made available for review by the school nurse and/or parent/guardian at least 7 days prior to the event.

2. Field Trips and off Site Events

Any teacher organizing or sponsoring a field trip must participate in the district's annual education program on life threatening allergies. The lead teacher/chaperone or coach must maintain a list of all students in their charge who have LTAs. Staff are trained yearly in Epi-Pen administration.For all school sponsored field trips the teacher will review the student allergy list with the school nurse and notify the parent/guardian of any students with food allergies at least **7** school days prior to the event.

3. Roles

Parent/Guardian

- Inform the school nurse of your child's allergies prior to the opening of school (or as soon as possible after a new allergy is diagnosed).
- Provide the school nurse with the medical documentation from your primary care provider with medication orders before your child enters school, or immediately after a diagnosis of life threatening allergy is made.
- Provide the school nurse with at least annual updates on your child's allergy
- status.
- Provide the school nurse with the prescribed medications on the allergy action plan.
- Provide the school nurse with the licensed provider's statement if the student no longer has allergies.
- Provide the school with updated and accurate contact information.
- Review the list of student responsibilities with your child and be sure he/she understands bis/her role.

School Administrator/Designee

- Apply to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for "Registration and Administration of Epinephrine" as described in 105 CMR 210.000. This registration is granted for a two-year period and involves the training of unlicensed personnel to administer epinephrine by auto-injector to individuals (with a diagnosed life-threatening allergy) experiencing a life-threatening allergic event.
- Include in the school district's emergency response plan a written plan outlining emergency procedures for managing life-threatening allergic reactions. Develop procedures to assist schools at each level (elementary, middle and high) to adapt or modify the plan to meet special needs of individual students.
- Provide school staff, including substitute teachers, teacher assistants, and volunteers with a copy of this LTA policy.
- Monitor satisfactory cleaning protocol for classrooms, cafeteria, and other areas in the school building.
- Provide emergency communication devices (e.g., two-way radio, intercom, walkie-talkie, cell phone) for all school activities, including transportation, that involve a student with life-threatening allergies.
- **Ensure that parent/guardians and/or classroom teachers will not bring food into classrooms for distribution to students except under the provisions of this policy**
- Have a plan in place when there is no school nurse available.
    - Make sure that plans include notification and training, as indicated, of substitute teachers, substitute nurses, and food service personnel.
- Provide guidance on district-wide issues such as transportation.
- Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student.
- Debrief each emergency event involving the administration of epinephrine.

School Nurse

- Develop an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) when an Allergy Action Plan (AAP) has been received.
- Assure that the AAP is distributed to staff that have a "need to know."
- Ensure that an Emergency Action Plan(EAP) is in place for life-threatening allergies.
- Epinephrine should be kept in a safe, accessible and reasonably secure location that can be properly supervised by a nurse or other authorized and trained staff member.
- Periodically check medications for expiration dates and arrange for them to be current.
- Call 911 for any epinephrine administration.
- Complete the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Epi-Pen administration form, in the event of Epi-Pen administration. Forward form to Nurse Leader before end of work day.
- Make sure that substitute school nurses are fully oriented to students with life- threatening food allergies and can access their health file.
- Support faculty, staff, and parents in implementing all aspects of the life- threatening allergy management plan.
- Provide annual training and education for faculty and staff regarding:
    - Anaphylaxis/anaphylactic reactions to foods, insect stings, medications, latex
    - Risk reduction procedures
    - Emergency procedures
    - How to administer an epinephrine auto-injector in an emergency
    - Cafeteria management and food preparation for food service personnel
    - Keep a list of staff that have completed education

Classroom Teacher

- Participate in district's annual education program on life threatening allergies.
- Maintain a list of all students in the classroom with LTAs.
- Keep the emergency action plan provided by the nurse available for reference and in the substitute folder.
- **Ensure that parent/guardians and/or classroom teachers will not bring food into classrooms for distribution to students except under the provisions of this policy**
    - Permission must first be obtained from the principal at least 10 days prior to the event.
    - The teacher will send home a notice of the event at least 7 days prior to the event and will require written consent from a parent/guardian to allow their child to participate.

Substitute Staff

- Participate in the district's annual education program on life threatening allergies dealing with the legal requirements and implementation of emergency procedures.

Food Services Personnel

- Participate in the district's annual education program on life threatening allergies dealing with the legal requirements and implementation of emergency procedures.
- Follow required safe food handling practices (Servsafe) to prevent cross contamination with potential food allergens.
- All food service personnel will be aware of common allergens being served (Milk, eggs, soy, shellfish, etc.)
- Follow required cleaning and sanitation protocols.
- Obtain a list of students with food allergies from the school nurse and enter the information into the cafeteria database.

Transportation Staff

- Maintain a policy of not permitting food to be eaten on school buses/vans.
- Maintain functioning emergency communication devices (ex.CB Radio).
- Know how and when to activate emergency medical services (EMS)

Student

- Should not trade food with others.
- Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something **they** believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.
- When self-administration is allowed, students should agree to keep their emergency medications on their person or immediately under their control and supervision at all times.
    - The student must notify a supervising adult as to the location of their Epi-pen in the event that the student cannot self- administer.

First Reading: March 25, 2025
Second Reading:
Third and Final Reading: