

AP 240.1: Anaphylaxis

1. Information and Awareness

- 1.1 Parents/guardians will be required to identify students with a potential for anaphylaxis when they register their children or as conditions change.
- 1.2 Parents/guardians and staff members with a potential for anaphylaxis must be responsible for providing auto-injectors for their children or for themselves. The school will not be responsible for ensuring that such equipment is available.
- 1.3 In schools with student(s) or staff member(s) with a potential for anaphylaxis:
 - 2.1.2 All staff, including temporary replacement workers such as teachers-on-call and relief support staff, will be informed of the names and allergies of students and staff with a potential for anaphylaxis.
 - 2.1.3 Information about anaphylaxis management will be shared with students, parents/guardians and Parent Advisory Councils.
- 1.4 All staff will receive annual in-service and review in anaphylaxis, District Policy and the use of auto-injectors such as EpiPens®. Principals should have annual training and review with all staff.

2. Avoidance

- 2.1 The school will provide, as much as possible, an allergen aware zone within the school.
- 2.2 The school will provide, as much as possible, a safe area for students and staff with a potential for anaphylaxis.
- 2.3 The school will avoid, as much as possible, allergens hidden in school activities such as parties and similar extra-curricular activities.
- 2.4 Although it is the classroom teacher's responsibility to ensure, as much as possible, that classroom snacks are allergen-free, it is not possible for the classroom teacher to guarantee that this occurs. Children with a potential for anaphylaxis should not be permitted to eat snacks provided by the teacher or other parents/guardians. It is the responsibility of the child's parent/guardian to provide allergen-free snacks.
- 2.5 The school will take special precautions during holiday and special celebrations and in planning field trips and extra-curricular activities.

3. Emergency Response

- 3.1 When accidental exposure triggers an anaphylactic reaction, a prompt response is critical. In cooperation with parents/guardians, the child's physician and the public health nurse, the Principal will establish a separate emergency plan for each student, including a rapid response procedure to:

- administer single dose auto injector
- call 911
- call parent/guardian
- administer second single dose auto inject 5 - 15 minutes after first dose if symptoms have not improved, unless the physician's recommended protocol for an individual differs
- have ambulance transport student to hospital if possible

3.2 The Principal, in cooperation with the staff member(s) with a potential for anaphylaxis, will develop a similar emergency response procedure for staff.

3.3 The first-aid attendant should accompany a student or staff member who is transported to the hospital or nursing station.

4. Shared Responsibility

4.1 Ensuring the safety of children with a potential for anaphylaxis in a school depends on the cooperation of the entire school community. To minimize the risk of exposure and to ensure rapid response to emergency, parents/guardians, student and school personnel must all understand and fulfill their responsibilities. The specific responsibilities of each are.

4.2 Responsibilities of the parents/guardians of an anaphylactic child

- 4.2.1 Inform the school of their child's allergies.
- 4.2.2 Provide a medical alert bracelet for their child.
- 4.2.3 Provide the school with physician's instructions for administering medication.
- 4.2.4 Provide the school with 2 up-to-date single use single dose auto injectors, and keep them current.
- 4.2.5 Provide support to school and teachers, as requested.
- 4.2.6 Participate in in-service for staff, if requested.
- 4.2.7 Participate in parent/guardian advisory/support groups.
- 4.2.8 Assist in school communication plans.
- 4.2.9 Review the school action plan with school personnel.
- 4.2.10 Supply information for school publication:
 - recipes;
 - foods to avoid;
 - alternate snack suggestions; and

- helpful resources.

4.2.11 Be willing to provide safe foods for special occasions.

4.2.12 Teach their child:

- to recognize the first symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction;
- to know where medication is kept and who can get it;
- to tell an adult if they think they are having a reaction;
- to carry his/her own auto-injector in a fanny-pack when they have demonstrated maturity;
- not to share snacks, lunches or drinks;
- to understand the importance of hand washing;
- to cope with teasing and being left out;
- to report bullying and threats to an adult in authority; and
- to take as much responsibility as possible for his/her own safety

4.2.13 Welcome other parents'/guardians' calls with questions about safe foods.

4.3 Responsibilities of the school Principal

4.3.1 Work as closely as possible with the parents/guardians of a child with the potential for anaphylaxis.

4.3.2 Ensure that the parents/guardians have completed all the necessary forms.

4.3.3 Ensure that instructions from the child's physician are on file.

4.3.4 Notify the school community of the child with a potential for anaphylaxis, the allergens and the treatment, including the transportation department and bus driver.

4.3.5 Post allergy-alert forms in the staff room and office.

4.3.6 Maintain up-to-date emergency contacts and telephone numbers.

4.3.7 Ensure that all staff and volunteers have received instruction with the auto-injector.

4.3.8 Ensure that all teachers-on-call are informed of the presence of a child with the potential for anaphylaxis and have been adequately trained to deal with an emergency.

4.3.9 Inform all parents/guardians that a child with life-threatening allergies is attending the school and ask for their support.

4.3.10 Arrange for annual in-service.

- 4.3.11 Develop an emergency protocol for each child with the potential for anaphylaxis.
- 4.3.12 Store auto-injectors in easily accessible unlocked locations.
- 4.3.13 Establish safe procedures for field trips and extra-curricular activities.
- 4.3.14 Develop a school policy (or implement the Board Policy) for reducing risk in classrooms and common areas.
- 4.3.15 Provide the parents of the student with a copy of these Procedures

4.4 Responsibilities of the classroom teacher

- 4.4.1 Display a photo-poster in the classroom, with parent/guardian approval.
- 4.4.2 Discuss anaphylaxis with the class, in age-appropriate terms.
- 4.4.3 Encourage students not to share lunches or trade snacks.
- 4.4.4 Choose allergy-free foods for classroom events.
- 4.4.5 Establish procedures to ensure that the anaphylactic child eats only what he/she brings from home.
- 4.4.6 Reinforce hand washing before and after eating.
- 4.4.7 Facilitate communication with other parents/guardians
- 4.4.8 Follow the school policies for reducing risk in classrooms and common areas.
- 4.4.9 Enforce school rules about bullying and threats.
- 4.4.10 Leave information in an organized, prominent and accessible format for substitute teachers.
- 4.4.11 Ensure that auto-injectors are taken on field trips.

4.5 Responsibilities of the school nurse

- 4.5.1 Consult with and provide information to parents/guardians, students and school personnel.
- 4.5.2 Participate in designing or planning school avoidance strategies.
- 4.5.3 Participate in in-service and auto-injector training.
- 4.5.4 Assist in developing student level emergency plans.

- 4.5.5 Refer names of children known to be prone to anaphylaxis to the school Principal.
- 4.6 Responsibilities of students with a potential for anaphylaxis
 - 4.6.1 Take as much responsibility as possible for avoiding allergens.
 - 4.6.2 Eat only foods brought from home.
 - 4.6.3 Take responsibility for checking labels and monitoring intake (older students).
 - 4.6.4 Wash hands before and after eating.
 - 4.6.5 Learn to recognize symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction.
 - 4.6.6 Promptly inform an adult as soon as accidental exposure occurs or symptoms appear.
 - 4.6.7 Stay in proximity to adults when accidental exposure occurs or symptoms appear.
 - 4.6.8 Keep an auto-injector on person at all times.
 - 4.6.9 Know how to use the auto-injector.
- 4.7 Responsibility of all parents/guardians
 - 4.7.1 Respond cooperatively to requests from school to eliminate allergens from packed lunches and snacks.
 - 4.7.2 Participate in parent/guardian information sessions.
 - 4.7.3 Encourage children to respect anaphylactic child and school policies.
- 4.8 Responsibilities of all students
 - 4.8.1 Learn to recognize symptoms of anaphylactic reaction.
 - 4.8.2 Avoid sharing food, especially with children with a potential for anaphylaxis.
 - 4.8.3 Follow school rules about keeping allergens out of the classroom and washing hands.
 - 4.8.4 Refrain from “bullying” or “teasing” a child with a food allergy.