

STUDENT ALLERGY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The Health Services Effective Practice Specialist in conjunction with the school nurse shall oversee the administration of these procedures in consultation with the food service manager, the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), the wellness committee, the transportation director, district consulting physician, the special education director or 504 coordinator and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

General

In accordance with Board policy, SSD will provide training to all staff members about the causes and symptoms of, and responses to allergic reactions via SSD nursing staff and/or Human Resources Safe Schools training module. This training will be provided at the beginning of each school year. Staff members who are hired after this training has been conducted will be provided the information within ten work days of the first day of employment.

Students may carry medication for the treatment of allergies when allowed by Board policy. In addition, prefilled epinephrine auto syringes and asthma-related rescue medications are available in each building and stored in the nurses office of each SSD school.

Staff will respond to allegations of harassment or bullying on the basis of an allergy in accordance with the District's policy on bullying.

All staff will be instructed in approved cleaning methods, including the use of soap and hot water, and will be required to use approved methods in any location in which food is served.

Identification of Students with Severe Allergies and Risk Reduction and Prevention Strategies

Prior to the beginning of every school year and upon enrollment, the nurse will review the Health History forms and any updates submitted by the parent/guardian to identify students with life-threatening allergies. Upon receiving notification from a student's parent or guardian that the student has a life-threatening or severe allergy, the nurse will request the following information be provided to the District by the parent/guardian and student's physician, preferably an allergist:

Signed consent for exchange/release of information
Emergency Action Plan (EAP) (food allergy, insect allergy, latex-allergy)
Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special requirements or restrictions

Response to an Allergic Reaction

Any staff member who becomes aware that a student is having an allergic reaction must:

1. Stay with the student
2. Notify the nurse immediately
3. Contact the parents

If a staff member determines that the allergic reaction is potentially life threatening, the staff member will implement the student's Section 504 plan, Individualized Health Plan (IHP) or EAP if the staff member is familiar with the plan.

If the student does not have a 504 Plan, IHP or EAP, the staff member is not familiar with the 504 Plan, IHP or EAP, or such plan is not immediately available, the staff member will immediately take or direct another person to take the following actions:

1. Administer epinephrine, if available, at the direction of the school nurse or designee. If the school nurse is not present, the staff member may administer epinephrine, if available, if the staff member determines it is necessary to safeguard the health of the student.
2. An employee who has not been trained in the administration of epinephrine may choose not to administer epinephrine. If so, the employee should attempt to locate someone who can administer epinephrine to the student.
3. Call 911
4. Notify the school nurse or, if the nurse is not available, notify supervisor.
5. Notify the parents/guardians.
6. Provide first responders with information about the student's allergy reaction and any actions already taken.
7. Remain with the student until a parent/guardian or emergency contact arrives or until the student is transported from the District by first responders.

As soon as possible after the allergic reaction, the nurse will consult with the Section 504 coordinator and the student's parent/guardian to determine whether a Section 504 Plan or IHP/ EAP would be appropriate for the student.

Instructional Areas

No food preparation or consumption will take place in any instructional area unless the instructor has permission from the building administrator. Courses that include food preparation or consumption as a regular part of the curriculum are exempt from this provision, but instructors in these courses have an increased responsibility to monitor student adherence to District policies and prevention procedures.

Substitute teachers will be alerted in the substitute teacher information folder of any student with a diagnosed allergy and known history of moderate to severe reaction and should meet with the school nurse for student-specific training prior to class time.

Dining Areas

The school nurse or designee will provide the food service manager with a copy of any Section 504 Plan or IHP that concerns diet along with a photograph of the student. In lieu of providing a copy of the actual plan, the nurse or designee may provide a document with all the pertinent information. Any Section 504 Plan or IHP that requires food substitutions must include a written statement from a licensed physician that:

1. Describes the disability or condition.
2. Explains how the student is restricted as a result of the disability or condition.
3. Identifies the major life activities affected by the disability or condition.
4. Lists omitted and permitted foods.

The food service manager will provide information to food service personnel as necessary. Food service personnel will not act on individual requests for dietary accommodations. If a student or parent/guardian of a student who does not have a Section 504 Plan or IHP/EAP on file with the food service manager requests an accommodation, he or she will be referred to the school nurse for assistance.

The food service manager will arrange for all food service staff to be trained in food label reading, cross-contamination avoidance, safe food handling and food item labeling requirements.

If there is any change in the menu after the menu has been posted, the food service manager will notify the school administrator who will then notify the school nurse or designee. The nurse or designee will notify parents/guardians of students with a Section 504 Plan or IHP/ EAP for food allergies if necessary.

The principal may designate one or more tables in the dining area as peanut and tree-nut-free areas. Students who use these tables may not have any food or beverage that contains or may contain peanuts or tree nuts. If any student has been identified as having life-threatening allergies to a food or beverage other than peanuts or tree nuts, the principal may designate one or more tables as allergen-free areas and specify the prohibited foods and beverages. Staff responsible for cleaning dining areas will clean any such designated tables prior to each use according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommendations using separate cleaning supplies. No student will be required to sit at the designated table.

Staff members supervising dining areas will promote a "no sharing/no trading" environment to prevent students from trading foods, beverages or dining utensils.

Environment

Staff will use only cleaning materials, disinfectants, deodorizers or other chemicals provided by the District.

Transportation and Off-Site Activities

Except as otherwise outlined in this procedure, drivers will not allow students to eat or drink on District transportation unless the student has written permission from his or her principal. Written permission will be provided if the student has a medical need to consume food or beverages during the time the student is transported. A student who has a medical need to consume food or beverages on District transportation must have a Section 504 Plan or IHP that addresses which foods or beverages the student may consume if he or she is transported with any other student who has a life-threatening food allergy.

Students being transported to and from activities on District transportation may be allowed to consume food and beverages if the staff member serving as sponsor has verified that none of the students being transported have documented life-threatening food allergies.

Staff members must submit a list of students taking part in off-site activities, such as competitions and field trips, to the nurse at least five days prior to the activity. The nurse will verify which, if any, students have allergies and provide the staff member with a copy of the relevant Section 504 plans, IHPs/EAPs and any medications that may be needed in the case of an allergic reaction.

Definitions

Allergen – A substance that triggers an allergic reaction.

Allergic Reaction – An immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions trigger inflammation in the skin (hives, itching, a rash); the respiratory system (coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing); the gastrointestinal tract (vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain); and the cardiovascular system (lowered blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, shock).

Anaphylaxis – A life-threatening allergic reaction that involves the entire body. It may be characterized by symptoms such as lowered blood pressure, wheezing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea swelling or hives. Anaphylaxis may result in shock or death.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP) - A written plan for students who have life-threatening conditions, such as an allergy. This plan is designed to inform school District personnel who may be called upon to respond.

Individualized Health Plan (IHP) - A document created by the District in cooperation with the parents/guardians and, when appropriate, a student's health care provider, for students who have specific health care needs. An IHP is a nursing care plan that has student-centered goals and objectives, and describes the nursing interventions designed to meet the student's short and long-term goals.

Life-Threatening Allergy-An allergic reaction that is severe enough to potentially cause death.

Resources

American Academy of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology (AAAAI) <http://www.aaaai.org>
<http://www.aaaai.org/patients/gallery/foodallergy.asp>

Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
<http://www.foodallergy.org>

Missouri State Guidelines for Allergy Prevention and Response
http://dhss.mo.gov/living/families/schoolhealth/pdf/mo_allergy_manual.pdf

Legal Refs: Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 167,
§§ 167.208, .635, RSMo

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