

ANAPHYLAXIS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Anaphylaxis management is a shared responsibility that includes allergic children, their parents, caregivers and the entire school community.

Parents

Parents are to make every effort to teach their allergic children to self-protect. Good safety habits are to be established from an early age. Parents:

- Must educate the allergic child on avoidance strategies.
- Are responsible for informing the school about the child's allergies, updating the school on any changes (e.g. diagnosis of an additional allergy or outgrowing an allergy).
- Providing the child/school with an epinephrine auto-injector which is not expired.
- Are to complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan, which has the child's photograph and allergy information, emergency contact numbers, emergency protocol, and signatures of the parent/guardian and physician.
- Are to provide consent, which allows school staff to use an epinephrine auto-injector when they consider it necessary in an allergic emergency.
- Are not to sign a waiver absolving the school of responsibility if epinephrine was not injected.
- For food-allergic children, are to provide non-perishable foods and safe snacks for special occasions.
- Are to communicate with school staff about field trip arrangements.
- Are to meet with foodservice staff to inquire about allergen management procedures and menu items, if their child is to eat foods prepared at school.

Children at Risk

Allergic children who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis must:

- Have one (1) auto-injector with the child's name on it, kept in a readily available location, which is unlocked (preferably carried on the person).
- Be encouraged to carry their own auto-injector when age appropriate.
- Be discouraged from eating if they do not have an auto-injector with them.
- Be very cautious when eating foods prepared by others.

- Wear medical identification, such as a Medic Alert bracelet (or necklace for older children) which clearly identifies their allergy, or a special badge in the case of very young children in the nursery setting.

School Community

- The Principal must ensure that all teaching and non-teaching school staff, and all playground and lunchroom supervisors receive training on an annual basis, regarding the recognition of a severe allergic reaction, the use of injectors and the emergency plan.
- Ensure that a minimum of one epinephrine auto-injector is maintained in a secure location in the school office.
- The annual training courses that MUST be completed are:
 - M-161 Epinephrine Auto-Injector Use
 - C-104 Allergy and Anaphylaxis

These on-line training courses, managed by EICS' OH&S Coordinator, are available at the following link:

<https://www.theworks-intl-ca.com/LMS/login.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.theworks-intl-ca.com%2FLMS%2FflmsPersonCourses.php&di=50024>

- All school staff are to be aware of children who have an allergy that may predispose them to anaphylaxis and be prepared to treat an allergic reaction. Information about children with life-threatening allergies is to be made available. Many teachers keep a copy of their student's Anaphylaxis Emergency Plans in their day book; this is where important information is organized for substitute teachers.
- School staff are to consult with the parent before posting the child's plan. It is to be kept in areas which are accessible to staff, while respecting the privacy of the child (e.g. office, staff room, lunch room or cafeteria). Older children are often more reluctant to have their plan posted in the classroom where it is visible to all.
- The entire school population is to be educated regarding the seriousness of anaphylaxis and be taught how to help their peers. This could be achieved through general awareness sessions in an assembly or a health lesson. Peers are to be taught that bullying and teasing students at risk of anaphylaxis is unacceptable. Bullying and teasing incidents are to be dealt with immediately.

Reference: Section 11, 33, 52, 53, 197, 197, 222 Education Act
 Bill 201, Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act
 Emergency Medical Aid Act
 Occupational Health and Safety Act
 Alberta School Boards Association Policy Advisory: Anaphylaxis