

FOOD-INDUCED ANAPHYLAXIS

The Board of Education recognizes its role and responsibility in supporting a healthy learning environment for all students, including those who have or might develop life-threatening (anaphylaxis) allergies. Anaphylaxis can affect almost any part of the body and may be characterized by symptoms such as lowered blood pressure, wheezing, vomiting, diarrhea, swelling, hives, and shock, all of which can be potentially fatal. While we recognize that anaphylaxis can be caused by something other than food (e.g., an insect bite), this policy deals specifically with food-induced anaphylaxis.

When a student is identified as having the potential for food-induced anaphylaxis, the Board will ensure that all District staff will work cooperatively with the student, his /her parent/guardian, and health-care provider to allow the student to participate as fully and safely as possible in school activities.

If a parent informs the building principal in writing of the presence of a life-threatening food allergy, the District, upon notification by that principal, will assemble a team, which may include the parent, the school nurse, the child's teacher, the principal, and other appropriate personnel. The team will be charged with developing an individualized health-care plan to guide prevention and response.

The school nurse will provide the parent with a medical release to allow the school physician to contact and consult with the child's personal physician. The parent will be strongly encouraged to sign and return the release to the school nurse. The school physician will consult with the school nurse, once he/she has obtained the relevant information from the child's physician. The individualized health-care plan, which will guide prevention and response, will be maintained by the school nurse and reviewed annually. The school nurse will compile and maintain a list of students with medically documented food allergies.

All individualized health-care plans for students with the potential for food-induced anaphylaxis will be shared with the following:

- Building administration
- School nurse
- Teachers (including special area teachers and substitutes)
- Paraprofessionals
- Office staff
- Food Service personnel
- Coaches, athletic directors, and club and activity advisors
- Transportation personnel

The following action steps will be taken for anaphylaxis management:

- Providing necessary precautions;
- Providing training by licensed medical personnel for all relevant staff in the recognition and emergency management of severe allergy and anaphylaxis for affected students;
- Creating appropriate written plans;
- Providing all relevant staff with written emergency medical protocols;
- Maintaining EpiPens, as allowed by New York State law, in all health offices, for use in emergencies involving students who may or may not be identified. The school nurse will periodically check the EpiPen supply to discard and replace those that have expired;
- Allowing students who have prior written approval from their parent/guardian, personal physician, and school nurse to carry life-saving medication in accordance with appropriate health practices and procedures. Duplicate life-saving medication must also be maintained in the health office, in the event that a self-carrying student misplaces his/her medication.

If a student is eligible for accommodations based upon IDEA, Section 504, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, the appropriate procedures will be followed regarding identification, evaluation, and implementation of accommodations.

If a parent informs the building principal in writing of the presence of other sensitivities and medical conditions, the principal will endeavor to alert appropriate staff and make the parent and child aware of resources that will help them to guide the decisions they make.

Great Neck Public Schools

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