

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY # 8123

ANAPHYLAXIS/SEVERE ALLERGY POLICY

Purpose

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can affect almost any part of the body and cause various symptoms. The most dangerous symptoms include breathing difficulties, a drop-in blood pressure and/or shock. Anaphylaxis is potentially fatal and can be caused by allergies to food, latex, medication, insect stings and/or other environmental factors. Treatment of anaphylaxis is centered on treating the rapidly progressing effects of the histamine released in the body with epinephrine and the immediate removal of the allergen.

Some Red Hook Central School District students have allergies that could result in anaphylaxis. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to identify such students, appropriately address means to prevent contact with identified allergens to the extent practicable and authorize treatment in the event of anaphylaxis.

Creating an Allergen-Safe School Environment (Importance of Prevention)

Avoidance of exposure to allergens is the key to preventing a reaction. As such, the risk of exposure to allergens for a student is most effectively reduced when the school personnel, medical provider(s) and parent(s)/guardian(s) work together to develop a coherent management plan. The District will endeavor to consult a wide variety of stakeholders (e.g., parents/guardians, physician(s), nurses, administrators/directors, support staff, and others deemed necessary) when developing a management plan that both reduces exposure and directs staff in the appropriate response(s) should exposure occur.

District Responsibilities:

- Respond to the receipt of any medical document that indicates the student is severely allergic to known factors by:
 - Notifying the school nurse.
 - Requesting an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) be completed by the affected student's physician and returned to the school.
 - Notifying appropriate staff members of safety precautions, symptoms of anaphylaxis, and appropriate response(s).
- Assure that appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place to the extent practicable (e.g., an alternate location for eating, differentiated menu options, etc.)

- Provide annual training to all personnel regarding safety precautions and symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Provide signage related to safety precautions and symptoms of anaphylaxis in the cafeteria and instructional spaces (as deemed appropriate)
- Provide a copy of the student's ECP for all field trips.
- Maintain supplies of Epipens, as allowed by the laws of NYS, for use in first time emergencies of undiagnosed allergies.
- Maintain supplies of life saving emergency medication as indicated in the student's medical protocols and as provided by the parent/guardian.

Self-directed students, as assessed by the school nurse, may be allowed to carry life-saving medication with prior approval by the medical provider and parents/guardian. Duplicate life-saving medication will be maintained in the health office (as provided by the parent/guardian).

Protocols and records

- The school Medical Director shall:
 - provide standing emergency medical protocols for nursing staff and consult with the school nurses as needed.
- The school nurses shall:
 - Follow specific legal documents executed in accordance with the laws of New York State with physician orders regarding the care of specific students with severe allergic reactions;
 - Maintain medical documentation (e.g., Emergency Care Plans, Health History, Determination of Self-Directed Students, etc.) in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and generally accepted school medical practices
- The Director of Food Services shall:
 - Consult with parents (and students as appropriate) on the development of a healthy choice plan. This healthy choice plan will be individualized to the extent practicable and/or reasonable.
- The School Principal shall:
 - Ensure that support staff and substitutes are aware of students with potentially life-threatening allergies under their direct supervision.
 - Ensure that appropriate signage related to anaphylaxis is present in the cafeteria and other areas (as deemed appropriate)

Approved: 11/02/16