

Life Threatening Allergies/ Food Allergies In The School

The Harrington Park Board of Education recognizes the importance of policies and procedures designed to provide a safe and healthy environment for students with food allergies or other allergies that may lead to anaphylaxis.

Therefore, the Board directs the Superintendent/ designee to develop plans and procedures designed to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, a safe environment for food allergic students.

Medical Management

- a. Prior to entry into school (or for a student who is already in school, immediately after the diagnosis of a life-threatening allergic condition), the parent/ guardian of a student with a life-threatening food allergy will meet with the school nurse to furnish an Individual Emergency Healthcare Plan (IHCP).
- b. The IHCP will be distributed to that particular student's teachers for review and a copy of the plan will be made available for review by substitute teachers who may be covering that student's classes.
- c. Paperwork for the students with severe allergies (requiring epinephrine/ immediate intervention) shall be on file in the nurse's office.
- d. The school nurse will administer Benadryl to a student who has a local (minor) allergic reaction in school. The parent/ guardian will be advised to continue to observe the student for signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and the necessary emergency measures to take.
- e. The school nurse will recruit and train designees who volunteer to administer epinephrine during school.
- f. Epinephrine shall be kept in a secure, but unlocked location that is easily accessible to delegated school personnel.
- g. A list of all staff member volunteers certified as epinephrine designees shall be kept on file.
- h. Lunch aides on duty in the classrooms shall be made aware of those students who have severe allergies, and the location of the Epi-pen for these students.

Snack Time Regulations

- a. Any student in grades K - 4 who brings in a food item that is an allergen of a student with an IHCP, will be directed to sit at a designated allergen table within the classroom. When snack is completed, the teacher will clean all eating surfaces; the student will sanitize their hands in the classroom, and then proceed to the bathroom to wash their hands and mouth.

Field Trips and Other School Functions

A parent, nurse, or delegate is required to be available during the school day and at school sponsored functions when an allergic student is in attendance.

The school should develop age-appropriate guideline to include, but not limited to:

- a. The adult responsible for carrying the epinephrine will travel on the same bus as the allergic child.
- b. Parents of food allergic children will notify the school nurse if their child participates in any school-sponsored club or extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

Preparation for Emergencies

- a. Staff members will be trained about life-threatening allergic conditions
- b. Listing and using volunteer designees trained by the school nurse in the administration of epinephrine.
- c. Establishing locations so that epinephrine is quickly accessible in the event of an emergency.

General Considerations for the Classroom and School Environment

The Administration, School Nurse, Classroom Teacher, and staff will take precautions to ensure the safety of students with food allergies and anaphylaxis to food. Examples of precautions may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Teachers must be familiar with the IHCP of any student in their class and be prepared to respond to emergencies as per the emergency protocol documented in that plan.
- b. All students must bring their own snacks from home and the sharing of food is forbidden.
- c. Teachers are encouraged the use of non-food items for all classroom activities as a means of avoiding the potential presence of major food allergens.
- d. Teachers, who have food allergic children in their classroom, should avoid using that child's potential allergen for classroom celebrations, projects, lessons, etc.
- e. Parents of food-allergic students will provide safe snacks and treats to be kept in the classroom. The food-allergic child will use his/her safe snacks in the event of classroom event, celebration, or forgotten lunch.
- f. Any food that is served as a part of a classroom event or celebration will not be distributed to students who have been identified as having life-threatening food allergies.
- g. No food should leave the school to be consumed in unsupervised situations. Therefore the distribution of "goody bags" is forbidden.
- h. A letter notifying classroom parents of a student's life threatening food allergy and description of general and/or specific guidelines for food brought into the school/classroom will be distributed in September.
- i. Develop and implement protocols for appropriate cleaning methods following events that involve food using disposable supplies to avoid cross contamination.

Lunchtime Regulations

- a. Lunch aides and Lunch Room Supervisors will be informed of the presence of students in their charge with severe allergies.
- b. The "no sharing" rule will be enforced.
- c. All students in grades 1-8 with food allergies will be offered an opportunity to eat at an allergen-free table. When lunch is completed, the lunch aides will clean all eating surfaces.
- d. Any Kindergarten student, who brings in a food item that is an allergen of a student with an IHCP, will be directed to sit at a designated allergen table within the classroom. When lunch is completed, the lunch aides will clean all eating surfaces; this student will use a hand wipe clean their hands in the classroom, and then proceed to the bathroom to wash their hands and mouth.