

Life Threatening Condition/Anaphylaxis

Policy # 5415

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The Board of Education is committed to the principle of providing a safe learning environment for its students. This includes a safe environment for all those who have been identified as having a life threatening condition, including anaphylaxis. It is expected that school staff, parent(s)/guardian(s) and students will take important steps to establish an environment which minimizes the risk for a potentially fatal incident without depriving the identified child of normal peer interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other children in the school. While it is impossible to guarantee a risk-free environment, accurate records, staff education, parent(s)/guardian(s) support and classroom and school rules should all be considered in planning to minimize risk. Schools must take realistic and practical actions which will encourage the support of everyone involved.

Life Threatening Condition includes **anaphylaxis**, a term used to describe an acute, severe, life-threatening allergic reaction which requires immediate medical treatment.

Schools, in conjunction with parents, students and the Public Health will develop “School Action Plans” a child with a life threatening condition is in their care. School Action Plans will include ways of minimizing risk for the identified child, as well as a procedure for dealing with a potentially life threatening event. These plans will be considered in the context of the identified child’s age and maturity. As a child matures, they should be expected to take increasing responsibility, i.e. avoidance to specific allergens.

Parent(s) / guardian(s) are responsible to inform the Principal of their child’s life threatening condition. The Principal and parents will work in partnership to create a plan that maintains as safe and healthy environment as is reasonably possible for students who may experience a life threatening condition. The Principal of the school is responsible for the implementation of the School Action Plan and will be assisted by the following guidelines.

Guidelines:

- Any student identified as “at risk” must be identified to all staff and lunch providers on an annual, or as needed, basis by providing an up-to-date photo. Life threatening condition alert forms should be posted in the appropriate classrooms, in the staffroom, and in the office. (The posting of photos should occur only after consultation/permission of parents.)
- Bus Drivers should be notified if an “at risk” student is riding the bus before/after school. The Bus Supervisor should receive a copy of the student’s picture and information pertaining to the Action Plan.

- All staff in schools with students with life threatening conditions shall receive an in-service from or approved by the Public Health Nurse. Procedures will be put in place in each school to educate TTOC's / substitute support staff, and secretaries.
- Students should wear Medic-Alert identification (bracelet).
- If an incident occurs a debriefing session should take place as soon as possible to ensure all people involved (staff, parent(s)/guardian(s), and student) understand the steps taken, and the outcome. If other students were involved, they should have the opportunity to tell how they felt and what worked for them in assisting a fellow student. A debriefing will provide feedback on what worked and didn't work and will be a positive method of ensuring we do what is best for students.

Responsibilities of Principals

1. Arrange a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the identified student to devise/revise the School Action Plan (consult Public Health if required). This should be done prior to the identified student's first day of school or as soon as practical.
2. Ensure the parent(s) / guardian(s) have signed and updated all necessary forms (i.e. verification) that the School Action Plan is implemented and that all medical information is updated.
3. Maintain an up-to-date list of emergency contact names and phone numbers.
4. Ensure that personal medical supplies, including Epi-Pens, are stored in a safe (unlocked) but accessible location. Ensure that staff has been informed of the location.
5. When appropriate inform all parent(s) / guardian(s) that a student with a life threatening condition is attending the school/class and request their support.
6. With teachers and pertinent support staff, develop procedures for reducing the risk in classrooms and other common areas.
7. Establish safe procedures for field trips and extra-curricular activities.
8. In the case of a food allergy, if there is a hot lunch program etc. in the school, the PAC or food provider must be made aware of the allergy. If the PAC or food provider cannot ensure allergen-free food then the child should not participate in the program.

Responsibilities of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible to inform the Principal and/or School Secretary of their child's life threatening condition. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to meet with the Principal (or designate) to develop the School Action Plan, discuss if their child's photo may be displayed, where medication will be kept, the information to be shared with staff, other students, and the designation of a safe eating area, if required.
2. Provide the school with current medical supplies– check expiry date and for damage or discoloration.
3. Consider a Medic-Alert bracelet for the child. If the child has one, it should be worn at all times.
4. The parent may wish to share information with other parents in the school in consultation with the Principal. A letter may be sent home with students identifying a child with a life threatening condition in the classroom.
5. Teach your child with a life threatening condition to:
 - recognize/communicate the first signs of a reaction
 - know where medication is kept
 - if child is responsible, carry emergency medical supplies (Epi-Pen) in a fanny pack
 - wear a Medic-Alert bracelet
 - if applicable, eat only food allowed at home
 - wash hands before/after eating
 - take as much responsibility for their own safety as possible
 - take medication home at the end of the school year

Responsibilities of Classroom Teachers

1. Review and follow the procedure set out in the School Action Plan.
 2. Reduce the risk for the student with a life threatening condition.
 3. Discuss the life threatening condition with students in age-appropriate terms, request a visit from the Public Health Nurse, if applicable. Create a positive and helpful attitude toward the student with the life threatening condition.
 4. If applicable, request the parent(s)/guardian(s) of an identified student provide food for their child when there are special occasions.
 5. Reinforce hand washing before and after eating.
 6. If required, request students wash their desks after eating, and ensure any food preparation areas are washed with warm soapy water.
 7. Leave information readily available for TTOC's.
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8. Ensure that personal medical supplies are taken on all outings (field trips etc). Supervisors, bus drivers etc should be aware of the student's life threatening condition and the School Action Plan for appropriate responses.
9. If applicable, follow the plan developed by the Principal and parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure a safe eating environment that does not isolate the student.

Responsibilities of the Identified Student

1. Know where the personal medical supplies are located.
2. Take as much responsibility as possible to avoid risk.
3. If you have a food allergy, eat only food permitted from home.
4. Older students – read food labels.
5. Wash hands before/after eating.
6. Know the signs and symptoms of a reaction/incident.
7. Tell an adult as soon as possible if symptoms appear or if you think you may be going to have symptoms.