

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES POLICY

Marshfield Public School District cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy-related event while at school. MPSD is committed to student safety, and therefore, has created this policy to reduce the risk that children with allergies will have an allergy related event.

There is an increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies in school age children. It is the goal of the Marshfield Public School District to maintain a safe and secure environment for its students. Marshfield Public School District maintains a safe and secure environment for students with life threatening allergies by defining (a) preventative measures and (b) emergency response procedures:

- A. Education and training: The District will provide annual education and training to all appropriate personnel on management of student allergies. The training will address prevention efforts, information about common allergens, and recognition of signs of an allergic reaction, emergency response plan, and EpiPen administration where appropriate.
- B. Individualized planning and accommodations: An Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) or Emergency Health Care Plan that addresses the management of anaphylaxis will be developed for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy.
- C. Classroom management procedures: Appropriate accommodations will be made in the classroom, including designation of the classroom as "allergen-aware" as necessary. The use of food for celebrations and rewards will be minimized and bake sales will not be permitted at schools during school hours
- D. Common Use Areas: The procedures will address foods used in common areas and cleaning of those areas, including use of those areas by groups other than students.
- E. Kitchen and cafeteria procedures: The food service staff must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all food items offered to a student with life-threatening allergies are free of foods suspected of causing the allergic reaction.
- F. Transportation procedures: School buses and vans must have a working means of two-way communication and a plan to check the communication system periodically. Bus and van drivers must have an emergency response plan. The eating and sharing of food will be prohibited on transportation routes unless medically indicated for a student.
- G. Field trip procedures: Planning for field trips will include plans to implement a student's IHCP, and identification of the communication system (cell phone, walkie-talkie etc.). A trained staff member designated by the school nurse will attend field trips which include a student with a life-threatening allergy in the event that the parent doesn't attend.
- H. Emergency response procedures: All staff members supervising students with life-threatening allergies must have a means of communication to call for assistance. The school nurse or another school staff member trained to administer epinephrine in accordance with 105 CMR 210 must be available in each school facility during the school day.

I. Procedures for handling epinephrine: Each school must maintain a current supply of epinephrine by auto-injector (EpiPen/Auvi-Q) and must comply with all Department of Public Health regulations for administration, storage, and record-keeping concerning epinephrine. The school nurse director shall register with the Department of Public Health and shall train other school personnel to administer epinephrine in accordance with 105 CMR 210.

LEGAL REFS: Massachusetts Department of Education, Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Fall 2002; Section 504 - Rehabilitation Act of 1973

IDEA

ADA-Title II

USDA Federal Regulations 7 CFR 210.10

MA Dept. Public Health Reg. 105

CMR 210.000 to include appendix K

CMR 10.000