

Pearl River School District -- Allergy Management Protocols

GOAL: Provide a safe environment, where students become increasingly self-managed in both prevention and treatment. The District is committed to working collaboratively with parents and health care providers to develop a plan that prevents (reduces) exposure to allergens, provides full access to the educational environment, and provides an emergency action plan matched to a student's individual needs.

The District recognizes that each allergy differs in type and severity. As such, each student presenting with medically confirmed allergy will be evaluated individually to determine the subsequent course of action. Emergency care plans will be completed and signed by the student's parents and physician and maintained by school nurses. These emergency care plans may or may not result in additional 504 or IEP accommodations.

Education and Awareness:

- Faculty and Staff - through mandated compliance training and health services
 - Awareness – ex: common allergens, including food-allergens in both food and non-food items (i.e. classroom supplies)
 - Management – classroom protocols, hand-washing, etc.
 - Emergency Care – signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction - anaphylaxis; review of individual Emergency Care plans; voluntary training in the administration of an Epi-Pen (epinephrine auto-injector)
- Food Service Personnel –
 - Food preparation protocols to avoid cross contamination
 - Cleaning guidelines
 - Confidential List – known building/grade level food allergies
 - Emergency Care – signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction - anaphylaxis; review of individual Emergency Care plans; voluntary training in the administration of an Epi-Pen (epinephrine auto-injector)
- Students
 - Awareness – ex: common allergens, including food-allergens in both food and non-food items (i.e. classroom supplies)
 - Classroom protocols (see below)
- Parents/Families
 - Awareness – ex: common allergens, including food-allergens in both food and non-food items (i.e. classroom supplies)

Cafeteria:

- Create a safe food zone – students sitting in this area (table, table end, etc.) must have an allergy free meal. Parents will be notified by letter in summer health mailing.
- Cafeteria tables will be cleaned by an adult after each lunch period.
- School nurse will notify food service personnel and lunch monitors of potential allergens and students with care plans.
- School nurse will be immediately accessible in the event of an allergic reaction in a student or staff member.

Classroom:

- School nurse will notify teachers and other classroom staff of potential allergens and students with care plans.
- Parents will be notified of the presence of a student(s) with a potentially harmful allergy and asked to voluntarily refrain from sending in documented allergens. Alternative snack ideas are available through www.snacksafely.com.
- If practical, create a classroom safe food zone.
- Prohibit sharing snacks.
- Classroom teacher will monitor snack closely, ex: designated time and location each day.
- Encourage frequent hand-washing.
- Avoid use of any food, food products, and common allergens in instruction – clear all items with school nurse, notify parents prior to use in instruction.
- Food will not be used as a reward or incentive.
- Adult volunteers will be trained by the school nurse in recognizing anaphylactic symptoms, administering an epi-pen, and calling 911, in the event that the school nurse is not immediately available. Volunteers will only administer an epi-pen as indicated by a recorded medical order.

Celebrations:

- Birthdays – As per student/parent handbooks, birthdays will be celebrated through a variety of activities that are not food based. Although an individual student may bring a special lunchbox birthday treat, birthday treats (cupcakes, cookie cakes, candy, etc.) will not be shared with classmates and/or staff.
- Class Celebrations – Although activity based celebrations are encouraged, there will be occasions designated on the building level calendar as building or class parties. These events will be carefully organized and monitored with feedback from the school nurse to reduce exposure to allergens and the risk of an allergic reaction and provide a variety of healthy food options. Parents will be notified in advance to provide alternative choices.

Field Trips / After School Activities:

- Classrooms may be restricted from after-school use in recognition of children with severe allergies who regularly attend programs in such classrooms.
- Health services personnel will assess potential health related concerns/risks prior to a field trip.
- Cafeteria/classroom food service protocols will be followed to the extent possible.
- Parents of students with severe allergies and/or health concerns will be permitted to attend field trips.
- A school nurse will attend a field trip as warranted by health concerns of students attending. Additionally, adult volunteer staff members may be trained by the school nurse in recognizing anaphylactic symptoms, administering an epi-pen, and calling 911, in the event that the school nurse is not immediately available. Volunteers will only administer an epi-pen as indicated by a recorded medical order.

Transportation:

- Consumption of food and beverages is not allowed on school transportation.
- Drivers and/or monitors will be notified of students with allergies. If indicated in 504 accommodations, bus monitors will be trained in recognizing symptoms of anaphylaxis. Additionally, monitors are trained on the administration of an Epi-pen.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Work collaboratively with District staff to implement an appropriate Emergency Care Plan or 504 accommodation plan as indicated by student health concerns.
- Provide the school nurse with an Emergency Care Plan, signed by the child's physician, containing up-to-date contact information, symptoms of an allergic reaction and instructions for administration of medication.
- Provide the school nurse with current medications for use in an emergency and replace these once expired.
- Work collaboratively with classroom teachers, school staff and parent groups to plan classroom and school activities consistent with providing a safe environment.

Student Responsibilities:

- Avoid known allergens.
- Do not share food at lunch or snack.
- Report any known symptoms to an adult (classroom, playground, cafeteria, bus, etc.).
- Self-carry and/or self-administer emergency medication if age-appropriate and confirmed by medical personnel.