



POLICY TITLE:
Anaphylaxis Management

Board Approval: October 24, 2018
Board Review: October 18, 2023

OBJECTIVE: Summit West Independent School recognizes the dangers faced by students with severe or anaphylactic reactions (allergies) to allergens. While the SWIS cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, it will take reasonable steps to ensure a safe environment for children with life-threatening allergies.

POLICY

Responsibility

The responsibility for communicating concerns about students with severe or anaphylactic reactions to allergens belongs to parents and to the students themselves, depending on the student's age and maturity. Schools have a supportive role to play in helping parents of students with severe allergies avoid exposure to pre-identified allergens while the student is at school.

DEFINITIONS

"Anaphylaxis" is a sudden and potentially fatal allergic reaction requiring immediate medical emergency measures. Symptoms of anaphylaxis can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen. An anaphylactic reaction can involve any of the following symptoms, which may appear alone or in combination:

- Skin System - hives, swelling, itching, warmth, redness, rash
- Respiratory System - coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest pain/tightness, horse voice, nasal congestion or hay fever-like symptoms, trouble swallowing
- Gastrointestinal System - nausea, pain/cramps, vomiting, diarrhea
- Cardiovascular System - pale/blue colour, weak pulse, passing out, dizziness/lightheadedness, shock
- Other - anxiety, melancholy, headache, uterine cramps, metallic taste

"Allergen" means a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction, and may include food, insect stings, medication, pollen, mould, animal dander, house dust mites and natural latex.

"Epi-Pen" is a preloaded syringe used to administer epinephrine.

PROCEDURES

1. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians with anaphylactic children to identify their children to the Principal and bus driver.

2. If parents identify their child to have severe or anaphylactic reactions to specific food, school-based administration shall ask other parents in that student's class to refrain from sending those foods to school.
 - 2.1 Regular reminders shall be sent to staff, students, and parents regarding the problematic food.
 - 2.2 If parents provide food for special occasions, they shall provide complete ingredient lists.
3. The Principal shall request from the parents/guardians written information regarding:
 - 3.1 The allergen that trigger an anaphylactic reaction;
 - 3.2 A treatment protocol, signed by the child's physician;
 - 3.3 Permission to post and/or distribute photographs and medical information in key locations such as classrooms, school bus, staff room, etc.
4. All staff members (certified and non-certified) must be made aware that a child with anaphylaxis is attending their school and that child shall be identified, either individually or at a staff meeting before or immediately after the child registers at the school.
5. Students shall be taught of the dangers to anaphylactic students.
6. Parents shall communicate to staff the signs of anaphylactic shock and show staff how an Epi-Pen is to be used.
7. The school shall avoid using the classroom(s) of an anaphylactic child as a lunchroom. If the classroom must be used for that purpose it must be established as an "allergen-precaution" area, using a cooperative approach with students and parents.
8. The school staff shall develop strategies for monitoring "allergen-precaution" areas and for identifying high-risk areas for anaphylactic students.