



## **Anaphylactic Policy and Procedures**

Date Policy and Procedures Established: January 2, 2009

Date Policy and Procedures Updated: January 1, 2019

Amended: January 2025

### **Purpose**

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life-threatening. It requires avoidance strategies and immediate response in the event of an emergency. These policies and procedures are intended to help meet the needs and save the lives of children with severe allergies and provide relevant and important information on anaphylaxis to families, educators, students, volunteers and visitors at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program.

This policy is intended to fulfill the obligations set out under Ontario Regulation 137/15 for an anaphylactic policy for Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Programs. The requirements set out in this policy align with [Sabrina's Law, 2005](#).

### **Policy**

#### **Individualized Plans and Emergency Procedures for Children with Life-threatening/Anaphylactic Allergies**

Before attending Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program, the supervisor/designate will meet with the families of a child to obtain information about any medical conditions, including whether the child is at risk of having or has anaphylaxis.

Before a child attends the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program or upon discovering that a child has an anaphylactic allergy, an individualized plan and emergency procedures will be developed for each child with anaphylaxis in consultation and collaboration with the child's families, and any regulated health professional who is involved in the child's care that the families believe should be included in the consultation (the form in Appendix A may be used for this purpose).

All individualized plans and emergency procedures will include a description of symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction that are specific to the child and the procedures to be followed in the event of an allergic reaction or other medical emergency based on the severity of the child's symptoms.

The individualized plan and emergency procedures for each child will include information for those who are in direct contact with the child on a regular basis about the type of allergy, monitoring and avoidance strategies and appropriate treatment.

All individualized plans and emergency procedures will be made readily accessible at all times to all educators, students and volunteers at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program and will be kept in each centre classroom and the main office area

**All** individualized plans and emergency procedures will be reviewed with a family of the child yearly to ensure the information is current and up to date.

Every child's epinephrine auto-injector must be carried everywhere the child goes.

Children must be in possession of their EpiPen worn around their waist upon arrival at the childcare, failure to comply will result in refusal of entry to the program.

### **Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Anaphylactic Allergens**

The following strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents must be followed at all times by employees, students and volunteers at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program.

Do not serve foods where its ingredients are not known.

Do not serve items with 'may contain' warnings on the label in a room where there is a child who has an individualized plan and emergency procedures specifying those allergens.

Ask the caterer or cook to provide the known ingredients for all the food provided. The ingredients will be reviewed before food is served to children to verify that causative agents are not served to children with anaphylactic allergies.

In cases where a child has food allergies and the meals and snacks provided by the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program cannot meet the child's needs, ask the child's families to supply snacks/meals for their child. All written instructions for diet provided by a families will be implemented.

Ensure that families label food brought to the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program with the child's full name and the date the food arrived at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program, and that families advise of all ingredients.

Where food is provided from home for children, ensure that appropriate supervision of children is maintained so that food is not shared or exchanged.

Encourage families who serve foods containing allergens at home to ensure their child has been rid of the allergens prior to attending the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program (e.g. by thoroughly washing hands, brushing teeth, etc.)

Do not use craft/sensory materials and toys that have known allergens on the labels.

Share information about anaphylaxis, strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens and treatment with all families enrolled in the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program.

Make sure each child's individual plan and emergency procedure are kept-up-to-date and that all educators, students, and volunteers are trained on the plans.

Refer to the allergy list and ensure that it is up to date and implemented.

Update educators, students, and volunteers when changes to a child's allergies, signs and symptoms, and treatment occur and review all updates to individualized plans and emergency procedures.

Update families when changes to allergies occur while maintaining the confidentiality of children.

Update or revise and implement the strategies in this policy depending on the allergies of children enrolled at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program.

## **Communication Plan**

The following is our communication plan for sharing information on life-threatening and anaphylactic allergies with educators, students, volunteers, families and families.

Families will be encouraged not to bring foods that contain ingredients to which children may be allergic.

Families will be informed about anaphylactic allergies and all known allergens at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program through Lillio, email and letters to families.

A list of all children's allergies including food and other causative agents will be posted in all cooking and serving areas, in each play activity room, and made available in any other area where children may be present.

Each child with an anaphylactic allergy will have an individualized plan and emergency procedures that detail signs and symptoms specific to the child describing how to identify that they are having an allergic reaction and what to do if they experience a reaction.

Each child's individualized plan and emergency procedures will be made available and accessible wherever the child may be present while receiving Thorncliffe Park Daycare.

The caterer, cook, individuals who collect groceries on behalf of the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program and/or other food handling educators, where applicable, will be informed of all the allergies at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program, including those of children, educators, students and volunteers. An updated list of allergies will be provided to the caterer or cook as soon as new allergies are identified. The supervisor or designate will communicate with the caterer/cook about which foods are not to be used in food prepared for the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program and will work together on food substitutions to be provided.

The Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program will communicate with the Ministry of Education by reporting serious occurrences where an anaphylactic reaction occurs in accordance with the established serious occurrence policy and procedures.

This communication plan will be continually reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program and that it is effectively achieving its intended result.

## **Drug and Medication Requirements**

Where drugs or medications will need to be administered to a child in response to an anaphylactic reaction, the drug and medication administration policy will be followed including the completion of a family's authorization form to administer drugs or medications.

Emergency allergy medication (e.g. oral allergy medications, puffers and epinephrine auto-injectors) will be allowed to remain unlocked or carried by children with family's authorization so that they can be administered quickly when needed.

## **Training**

The Supervisor/director will ensure that the educators whose classroom the child is in will receive training from a family of a child with anaphylaxis on the procedures to follow in the event of a child having an anaphylactic reaction, including how to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and administer emergency allergy medication.

Where only the supervisor/designate has been trained by the family, the supervisor/designate will ensure training is provided to all other educators, students and volunteers at the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program.

Training will be repeated annually, and any time there are changes to any child's individualized plan and emergency procedures.

A written record of training for educators, students and volunteers on procedures to be followed for each child who has an anaphylactic allergy will be kept, including the names of individuals who have not yet been trained. This will ensure that training is tracked and follow-up is completed where an individual has missed or not received training.

## **Confidentiality**

Information about a child's allergies and medical needs will be treated confidentially and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the child, except when information must be disclosed for the purpose of implementing the procedures in this policy and for legal reasons (e.g. to the Ministry of Education, College of Early Childhood Educators, law enforcement authorities or a Children's Aid Society).

**Procedures to be followed in the circumstances described below:**

Circumstance	Roles and Responsibilities
A) A child exhibits an anaphylactic reaction to an allergen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The person who becomes aware of the child's anaphylactic reaction must immediately:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. implement the child's individualized plan and emergency procedures;</li> <li>ii. contact emergency services and the family/guardian of the child, or have another person do so where possible; and</li> <li>iii. ensure that where an epinephrine auto-injector has been used, it is properly discarded (i.e. given to emergency services, or in accordance with the drug and medication administration policy).</li> </ol> </li> <li>1. Once the child's condition has stabilized or the child has been taken to hospital, educators must:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. follows the Thorncliffe Park Daycare and School age Program's serious occurrence policies and procedures;</li> <li>iv. document the incident in the daily written record; and</li> <li>v. document the child's symptoms of ill health in the child's records.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
A) A child is authorized to carry his/her own emergency allergy medication.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educators must:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ensures that written family's authorization is obtained to allow the child to carry their own emergency allergy medication.</li> <li>i. ensure that the medication remains on the child (e.g., fanny pack, holster) and is not kept or left unattended (e.g. in the child's cubby or backpack): If the school age child does not have the EpiPens the child will be sent home or refused care.</li> <li>ii. ensure that appropriate supervision is maintained of the child while carrying the medication and of children in their close proximity so that other children do not have access to the medication; and</li> <li>iii. Where there are safety concerns relating to the child carrying his/her own medication (e.g. exposure to other children), notify the centre supervisor/designate and the child's families of these concerns, and discuss and implement mitigating strategies. Document the concerns and resulting actions in the daily written record.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**Additional Procedures**

**Note: An educator who is with a child that is anaphylactic must ensure that medical attention is given to the child immediately.**