

## **ALLERGY POLICY**

Realizing that food allergies can be life threatening, the Center Moriches Schools shall remain committed to working with all adults and students within the school setting in order to minimize the risk of accidental exposure and to provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students. In addition, each school shall have a plan to deal with other allergy induced anaphylaxis. These efforts shall be coordinated among the school, the family and health service providers, where appropriate.

## **ALLERGY REGULATION**

### **Family's Responsibility**

- Notify the school of the child's allergies.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician, using the Food Allergy Action Plan as a guide. Include a photo of the child on written form. Medical documentation should identify, when applicable, severity of allergy and any precautions for the school.
- Provide emergency contact information.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration. Pick up all medications at end of school year.
- Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school including but not limited to the classroom, the cafeteria, after-care programs, school-sponsored activities, on the school bus, as well as developing a Food Allergy Action Plan.
- Educate the child, as developmentally appropriate, in the self-management of their food allergy including:
  - Safe and unsafe foods
  - Strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods
  - Symptoms of allergic reaction
  - How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
  - How to read food labels (age appropriate)
- Review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provides appropriate snacks for child when needed.

### **School's Responsibility**

- Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable federal and New York State laws as well as all district policies that apply.
- Review the health records submitted by parents and physicians.
- Include food-allergic students in school activities.
- Identify a core team including, but not limited to, school nurse, teacher, principal, school food service and nutrition manager/director and counselor (if available) to work with parents and the student to establish an allergy action plan.
- Assure that all staff who interacts with the student on a regular basis understands the nature of the food allergy, as well as triggers, can recognize symptoms, know what to do in an emergency, and work with other school staff to eliminate the use of food allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational tools, or arts and crafts projects.
- The use of food as a reward or incentive is strongly discouraged.
- Review Food Allergy Action Plans regularly throughout school year to ensure they are updated.

- Coordinate with the school nurse to be sure medications are appropriately stored, and be sure that an emergency kit is available that contains a physician's standing order for epinephrine. Students will be allowed to carry their own epinephrine, if deemed self directed by the student's physician/clinic, parents and school nurse.
- Designate school personnel who are properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.
- Review the allergy prevention plan with the core team members, parents/guardians, student (age appropriate) and physician after a reaction has occurred.
- Work with the district transportation administrator to assure that school bus driver training includes symptom awareness and what to do if a reaction occurs.
- No eating should take place on buses to and from school. Exceptions will be made to accommodate special needs. School should alert the transportation company to review this regularly through drivers.
- Discuss field trips with the family of the food-allergic child.
- At the elementary level, a letter will be sent home to the parents of all children enrolled in a class that has a classmate with a Food Allergy Action Plan. That letter will stipulate the causes of the allergy as well as food or materials classmates should not bring to school. In addition, suggestions for safe snacks and appropriate party treats will be included and shared with building staff.
- At the elementary level, teachers and teacher assistants shall be provided with training and support in monitoring the ingredients of snacks brought into the classroom.
- The school team will consult with the parent of a child who has food allergies to determine who will speak to the parents of the student's classmates at Back-to-School Night.
- Discourage nut products from being sent into school through administration or mailings.
- Offer a nut free cafeteria table during lunch (should have physician sign off permitting it)

### **Student's Responsibility**

- Should not trade food with others.
- Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.

### **Other Allergy Induced Anaphylaxis**

Children in the school setting may also be allergic to insect stings, and latex or medication, etc. The following guidelines and procedures should be followed for both the prevention and during a medical emergency resulting from anaphylaxis.

- When a parent notifies the school nurse that a child has an allergy to insect stings or anything else that may cause an anaphylactic reaction, the school nurse will alert faculty and staff.
- Parent will provide school with medical documentation indicating the allergy and anaphylactic response and the medication necessary for the response.
- The child may carry his/her Epinephrine Auto Injector (Epipen), if deemed self directed by the student's physician, parent and school nurse, in such cases this will be indicated in the physician's orders.
- Education will be provided to explain allergies, anaphylaxis and the use of Epinephrine Auto Injector (Epipen) for faculty and staff. (medical doctor will sign order for faculty and staff to use epipen for specific student)
- Methods of communication and an allergy action plan will be in place.
- Epinephrine Auto Injector (Epipen), as ordered by physician, may be taken on field trips.