

Policy Name	Anaphylaxis Policy
Policy Number	
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OneSchool Global's is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students at risk of anaphylaxis, ensuring they can fully participate in all aspects of their education.

The best approach to preventing anaphylaxis includes identifying students at risk, understanding the allergens (triggers), minimizing exposure to those allergens, and employing effective school-based prevention strategies.

The goals of this policy are to:

- Raise awareness of anaphylaxis and the school's policy on managing it.
- Minimize the risk of anaphylactic reactions through education, staff training, and effective policy implementation.
- Create a safe and supportive environment where students at risk of anaphylaxis can engage in all aspects of school life.
- Ensure all staff members understand how to respond appropriately in case of an anaphylactic reaction.
- Guarantee that all staff are properly trained to manage an anaphylactic emergency.
- Facilitate communication between the school and families to safeguard students at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Ensure that the location of epinephrine auto-injectors is well-known and easily accessible.

DEFINITION

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can progress rapidly.

"Anaphylaxis is a sudden and severe allergic reaction, which can be fatal, requiring immediate emergency intervention. Reactions may affect the skin, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system, cardiovascular system, and other organs." (Anaphylactic Protection Order, Sept 2007)

"An effective response to anaphylaxis relies on cooperation among all members of the school community, including students, parents, public health nurses, school personnel, and volunteers." (BC Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework, 2013, p. 15)

ANAPHYLAXIS DESCRIPTION

Symptoms of anaphylaxis can appear within minutes of exposure to an allergen, though reactions can occasionally occur up to hours later. The severity and type of symptoms may vary between individuals, and even from one reaction to another in the same person.

Common allergens that trigger anaphylaxis include:

- Peanut
- Tree nuts (e.g., almonds, cashews, walnuts)
- Milk
- Egg
- Sesame

- Wheat
- Soy
- Seafood (including fish and shellfish)
- Mustard

Anaphylaxis can be triggered through ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact with allergens. Symptoms can involve one or more of the following systems:

- Skin: Hives, redness, swelling, itching, warmth, rash
- Respiratory: Wheezing, throat tightness, cough, difficulty breathing, nasal congestion, or hay fever-like symptoms (itchy nose, watery eyes)
- Gastrointestinal: Nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea
- Cardiovascular: Pale/blue skin, weak pulse, fainting, dizziness, shock
- Other: Anxiety, a sense of impending doom, headaches

If untreated, anaphylaxis can lead to breathing difficulties or a significant drop in blood pressure, both of which can be fatal.

APPROACH TO SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND STAFF TRAINING

All teachers and administrators will receive annual training on anaphylaxis and allergy management. Training will cover:

- Recognizing the symptoms of anaphylaxis
- Common allergens
- Strategies for allergen avoidance
- Emergency response procedures, including the use of epinephrine auto-injectors
- Identifying students at risk of anaphylaxis
- Managing anaphylactic reactions in various school environments (classroom, playground, field trips, extracurricular activities)

Staff will ensure that at least one person with current anaphylaxis training is present during any school activity, including field trips and special events.

LOCATION OF EPIPEN

- The student's epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen) should be kept with them at all times.
- A second EpiPen will be stored securely but in an accessible location at the school office.
- All staff will be informed of the location of the epinephrine auto-injectors.

STORAGE CONDITIONS:

- Protect from light.

- Store at room temperature.
- Do not freeze.
- Do not refrigerate.

AVOIDANCE

The primary strategy to prevent an anaphylactic reaction is to avoid exposure to allergens. OneSchool Global will create an allergy-aware environment with strict protocols in place to minimize the risk of exposure.

The school will:

- Implement allergen avoidance strategies for peanut and tree nut allergies in classrooms and common areas.
- Display “STOP” signage at school entrances and exits indicating that peanuts and tree nuts are not allowed.
- Remove food products containing peanuts or tree nuts from vending machines.
- Ensure staff can recognize anaphylactic reactions and are trained to use an epinephrine auto-injector.

The principal will work with students, staff, and parents to create a safe, allergy-aware environment, balancing the rights of all students while ensuring the safety of those with life-threatening allergies.

STUDENTS WITH ANAPHYLAXIS IDENTIFICATION

At registration, families must disclose if their child has a medical diagnosis of anaphylaxis and complete an Anaphylaxis Action Plan if applicable. The principal will meet with parents to develop the Student Emergency Procedure Plan, which will be kept in the office and available to all staff.

The plan will include:

- Emergency contact details
- Medical diagnosis and treatment plan
- Notification instructions for the school community
- Acknowledgment that parents must inform the school of any changes to the student’s condition
- Details about the school’s responsibility to maintain up-to-date records

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians/Custodians

Parents/guardians must:

1. Notify the school if their child is diagnosed with anaphylaxis.
2. Complete the Student Emergency Procedure Plan, which includes emergency protocols, contact information, and consent for medication administration.
3. Provide updated medical information at the start of each school year.

If a student is at risk of anaphylaxis, they must:

1. Carry an epinephrine auto-injector.
2. Keep an unlocked, accessible auto-injector with a label.
3. Wear medical identification that lists allergens.
4. Notify someone immediately if they are exposed to an allergen or experience symptoms.
5. Practice safe food management to avoid allergens.

The Principal will:

1. Review the Student Emergency Procedure Plan annually with families.
2. Ensure staff are trained at least once a year on managing anaphylaxis.
3. Ensure that two epinephrine auto-injectors are available (one near the student and one in the office).
4. Inform staff of students at risk of anaphylaxis, the allergens involved, and the location of the epinephrine auto-injectors.
5. Display the Student Emergency Procedure Plan prominently and make it easily accessible to staff.
6. Ensure all food vendors and staff are aware of cross-contamination risks and avoidance strategies.
7. Carry the Student Emergency Procedure Plan on all field trips.

RECORD KEEPING, REPORTING, AND MONITORING

Each student with anaphylaxis will have a Student Emergency Procedure Plan on file, containing the following information:

- Student Information: Name, contact details for guardians, diagnosis, symptoms, emergency plan
- School Information: Treatment protocols, medical details, physician's signature
- The school principal is responsible for managing and reviewing this information annually and integrating it into the student's permanent record.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the following steps will be followed:

1. Administer the student's epinephrine auto-injector immediately. Record the time of administration.
2. Call emergency services (9-1-1).
3. Contact the student's parent/guardian.
4. If symptoms persist or worsen within 5-15 minutes, administer a second dose of epinephrine.

5. Transport the student to the hospital, even if symptoms improve, as the effects of the epinephrine may wear off.
6. Ensure a staff member stays with the student at all times.

FIELD TRIPS

For field trips, the following measures will be taken:

- Review the Student Emergency Procedure Plan and assess the risks of the trip (location, food availability, etc.).
- Identify the nearest hospital and establish emergency transportation plans.
- Brief staff and chaperones on the student's allergy, symptoms of anaphylaxis, and emergency procedures.
- Ensure the student's medications are carried at all times and accessible.
- Carry a cell phone for emergency contact.
- Take all student complaints seriously and compare symptoms to the Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan.
- If an allergic reaction occurs, initiate emergency procedures immediately.

The safety of students with anaphylaxis will always take priority, and any potential risks associated with giving medication will be outweighed by the need for immediate treatment.