

Students

Series 500

Policy Title: Life Threatening Allergies

Code No. 507.12-R

Anaphylactic shock can be caused when an allergic person is exposed to even a small amount of the allergen. Exposure can occur by swallowing, touching, and/or inhaling airborne particles, absorbing residues from other surfaces or insect bites. Peanuts are the most common cause of fatal food reactions. In order to minimize the incidence of life threatening allergic reactions, the Marshalltown Community School District will maintain a system-wide emergency plan for addressing life threatening allergic reactions. The District will utilize proactive procedures to minimize the chance of a child experiencing a life threatening allergic reaction on campus during the school day, however, cannot guarantee that the student will never be exposed to irritants and/or allergens. The focus of allergy management shall be on awareness, education, communication, prevention, and emergency response.

1. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to notify the building principal or nurse of student(s) who have life threatening allergies. The allergy must be clearly documented by the primary care physician or a board certified allergist.

- a) School staff PreK-12 with one or more students with a life threatening allergy will be notified of the health threat and be provided with a list of foods and materials to avoid.

- b) Parents of students in classrooms PreK-6 with one or more students with a life threatening allergy will be notified of the health threat and be provided with a list of foods and materials to avoid.
 - c) The school nurse will notify the director of food services when a diet modification is requested by the MD.
 - d) It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to supply Epinephrine injections if prescribed for their child for severe allergic reaction to e.g: medication, bee stings, asthma or food. See MCSD Medication Administration Policy #507.2-R
2. The school district requests that parents, staff and students avoid including peanuts and all tree nut products in lunches and snacks on campus during the school day for grades PreK-12.
3. **HOMEMADE TREATS OR FOOD ITEMS** for student consumption are strongly discouraged on campus during the school day. All treats should be commercially prepared and packaged for distribution with intact ingredient labels. Classrooms with students who have life threatening allergies may have more specific guidelines.
4. In grades PreK-12, food or candy items used as a part of a craft project or any school project will follow the food allergy policy. This includes crafts or projects made at school or made at home and sent to school.
5. Peanut butter jars will not be used for storage of manipulatives.

6. Visitation of classroom pets will be allowed case by case with specific guidelines for students with allergies.

7. Transportation Procedures:

- a) HOMEMADE TREATS OR FOOD ITEMS brought on the bus by students, staff or drivers during the school day for student consumption are strongly discouraged.
- b) Whenever the food allergic student travels on field trips during the school day, the parent/guardian will work with school staff to decide appropriate strategies for managing the allergy.
- c) Assure that transportation staff has training in how to activate EMS.
- d) It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to notify the District Transportation Supervisor of student(s) who have life threatening allergies and it will be the supervisor's responsibility to communicate this information to drivers.

8. Lunchroom Procedures:

- a) All students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water after eating and/or handling food.
- b) It is strongly encouraged that PreK-4 lunchrooms identify tables that will be consistently used for school purchased lunch and other tables for cold lunch.
- c) PreK-4 children who consume cold lunch will be encouraged to wash their hands before they go to the playground or back to their classrooms.

- d) Should a student with a peanut allergy choose to bring a cold lunch, that student will eat his/her cold lunch at the same table as students eating school lunch.
- e) The school will promote a “No Food Trading” and “No Utensil Sharing” policy.
- f) Lunchroom tables will be cleaned after each lunch shift.

9. Emergency Health Plans (EHP) will be written by the school nurse for any student who has written medical documentation regarding a potentially life threatening allergy. EHP’s will be shared with appropriate staff and emergency medical personnel. Notification will include an explanation of the severity of the health threat, a description of signs and symptoms to be aware of and a concise list of foods and allergens to avoid.

Adopted: January 18, 2016
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May 7, 2018

Legal Reference (Code of Iowa)

Amended:

Cross Reference: 507 Student Health and Well-Being