

Iredell-Statesville Schools Guidelines for Managing Students with Severe Allergies

Healthy, Safe, Orderly, and Caring Schools is one of the Strategic Priorities of the Iredell-Statesville School System. We realize that the health and well-being of our students is vital to being successful in school. We acknowledge the fact that severe allergies can be life threatening and will use these guidelines to assist us in working with students, parents, and physicians to minimize the risks and provide a safe educational environment for our severe allergic students.

Family's Responsibility

- Notify the school nurse and/or principal of the child's allergy
- Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school day including the classroom, cafeteria, Prime-Time, school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus, as well as a Severe Allergy Emergency Action Plan
- Provide the school with emergency contact information
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician,
- Provide the school with up-to-date emergency medications to be stored in a secure location as decided by the school allergy team and parents
- Educate the child in self-management of their severe allergy including:
 - *safe and unsafe foods
 - *strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods or allergens
 - *symptoms of allergic reactions
 - *how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
 - *how to read food labels (age appropriate)
- Review the guidelines/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.

School's Responsibility

- Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable federal laws including ADA, IDEA, Section 504, and FERPA and any NC laws or district policies or guidelines that apply
- Review the health records submitted by parents and physicians
- Include severe allergic students in school activities. Students should not be excluded from school activities solely based on their severe allergy.
- Identify a school allergy team of, but not limited to the school nurse, teacher, principal, and child nutrition manager to work with parents and the student (age appropriate) to establish a prevention plan. Changes to the prevention plan to promote severe allergy management should be made with the school allergy team's participation
- Assure that all staff who interact with the student on a regular basis understands the severe allergy, can recognize symptoms, knows what to do in an emergency, and works with other staff to reduce the risk of exposure of severe allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational tools, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.
- Reviews the Severe Food or Sting Emergency Action Plan before an allergic reaction occurs to assure the efficiency/effectiveness of the plan.
- Coordinate with the school nurse to be sure that emergency medications (provided by the parent) are ordered by a physician and stored properly. The epinephrine will be stored in a location agreed upon by the school allergy team and parents. Severe allergic

- students are allowed to carry their own epinephrine or emergency medications, if age appropriate, after approval from the student's physician, parent and school nurse.
- Designated school personnel will be properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the NC Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications
 - Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day, school bus, and/or after school care.
 - Review the guidelines/procedure plan with the school allergy 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
 - Recommend that all buses have communication devices in case of an emergency
 - Enforce a "no eating" policy on school buses with exceptions made only to accommodate special needs under federal and state laws and ISS guidelines (ex. Students with Diabetes would be allowed to eat if blood sugar was low).
 - Discuss field trips with the family of the severe allergic child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the allergy
 - Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student
 - Take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously

Student's Responsibility

- Learn to recognize symptoms and take them seriously in early stages
- Take as much responsibility for avoiding allergens as possible, based on developmental level, including participation in planning the allergy action plan
- Learn to read labels
- Do not trade or share food
- Wash hands before and after eating
- Promptly inform an adult if you suspect that you have contacted an allergen
- Develop trusting friendships with peers and ask them for help if needed
- Report teasing or harassment immediately
- Carry own Epinephrine and demonstrate competency if age appropriate

It is impossible to create a peanut-free or allergen-free environment. To create the illusion that the school environment is free of allergens would be misleading and potentially harmful. Instead, these guidelines have been designed to increase awareness and communication, to prevent possible exposure to known allergens, and to create an emergency procedure for allergic reactions.