

Food Allergy Management

Medical Plans of Care

There are several written documents individualized for a particular student with a severe or life-threatening food allergy which may be used to address the student's needs throughout the school day. These may be developed with input from a core team, which may include the student (if appropriate), the student's parent/guardian, the principal or his or her designee, the student's teacher, the school nurse, the cafeteria manager, the counselor, transportation staff, coaches, and other personnel deemed necessary to make decisions about food allergies. Medical plans of care may include the:

Emergency Care Plan: A medical plan of care distributed to all school personnel who have responsibilities for the care of the student. This plan specifically describes how to recognize a food allergy emergency and what to do when signs or symptoms of these conditions are observed.

Individualized Healthcare Plan: A medical plan of care that may be developed by the school nurse in collaboration with the student's health care provider and core team to provide written direction for school personnel to follow in accommodating the student's needs throughout the day. This plan may be developed prior to the student's entry to school or immediately after the student is diagnosed with a severe or life-threatening allergy.

A complete set of a student's current medical plans of care related to food allergies may be maintained by the school nurse and placed in designated places in the office. Copies of records will be distributed as necessary to adequately care for the student.

Students with Disabling Special Dietary Needs

When a student's food allergy is identified, evaluated, and determined to be a disabling condition, the District shall make appropriate accommodations, substitutions, or modifications for such students in accordance with the applicable policies relating to students with disabilities.

In such cases, the student will be required to have a written medical statement signed by a licensed physician to be included with the student's Individualized Healthcare Plan. The medical statement may identify:

1. The student's special dietary disability;
2. An explanation of why the disability restricts the student's diet;
3. The major life activity(ies) affected by the disability;
4. The food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet; and
5. The food or choice of foods that must be provided as the substitute.

Allergy In-service Training

The District may provide periodic training to teachers, aides, volunteers, substitutes, food service personnel, transportation personnel, and others as needed on any of the following topics:

1. Basic information such as signs, symptoms, and risks associated with food allergy and anaphylaxis;
2. Awareness of food and non-food items that might present risk;
3. Strategies that reduce risk of exposure to identified allergens throughout the school day;
4. Designation and maintenance of allergen-free zones;
5. Basic food handling procedures, including hand washing, avoiding cross-contamination, and cleaning surfaces;
6. District and school level policies, procedures, and plans for managing students with chronic health conditions including allergies;
7. How to respond in the case of a possible severe or life-threatening allergic reaction;
8. Local emergency medical service procedures;
9. Proper storage and administration of epinephrine auto-injectors, antihistamines, and other medications;
10. Strategies to manage student privacy and confidentiality while maintaining an inclusive class environment; and
11. How to deal with food allergy-related bullying.

Epinephrine and Other Medications

Students with severe allergies may be permitted to carry an epinephrine auto-injector with them, in accordance with Policy 3510. A student's epinephrine may also be kept in other locations where it would be easily accessible for the student, and training staff. Locations for storage will follow the manufacturer's guidelines

Garden Valley School District may choose to keep stocks of epinephrine at its schools to be used in emergencies for students with unknown allergies who develop an anaphylactic response and for those students with known allergies if their personal emergency medication is found to be flawed. This epinephrine may be kept in a place that is accessible at all hours when school is in session.

Any student who receives epinephrine at school must be immediately transported to a hospital for evaluation by a licensed healthcare provider and further observation or immediately released into the care and custody of their parent(s)/guardian(s). If a student receives epinephrine you must:

1. Call 911 and have emergency services notified and dispatch immediately.
2. Call the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student and notify them of the emergency.

Accommodations During School Hours

1. Clean and sanitize kitchen surfaces and equipment to avoid cross contamination with potential food allergens;
2. Wear non-latex gloves, and change or wash gloved hands during extended use to avoid cross-contamination with potential food allergens;

3. Have photos of students with severe or life-threatening allergies placed in the kitchen, only for kitchen staff to view;
4. Make appropriate substitutions or modifications to meals served to students with serious allergies;
5. Be prepared to make food ingredient lists used in food production and service available.
6. Parents of students with severe or life-threatening allergies may provide allergen-free snacks to be kept in the classroom and given to the student when treats are served in the classroom;
7. Teachers may notify parents in writing of any school related activity that requires the use of food in advance of the project or activity;
8. Allergen-containing foods may be prohibited in classrooms during after-school activities when that classroom will be used by a student with a known food allergy during the school day.
9. Post signs indicating rules for preventing exposure to life-threatening allergens in the classroom and ensure that these rules are enforced;
10. Eliminate the use of food allergens in the allergic student's educational tools, school-provided supplies, and incentives;
11. Participate in planning students' re-entry into school after an anaphylactic reaction; and
12. Send a notice to parents advising of the allergy and to keep that in mind when bringing in snacks.

Transportation

The school bus drivers may be informed when they are transporting a student with a life-threatening allergy.

Field Trips

1. Take into consideration the potential for exposure to the student's food allergens when determining sites for field trips, and consider ways of avoiding allergen exposure during the field trip;
2. Notify parents of students with severe or life-threatening allergies and the school nurse as soon as possible of any upcoming field trip;
3. Store meals for students with food allergies separately to minimize cross-contamination;
4. Prepare ways for participants to wash hands before and after eating, such as with hand wipes;
5. Appoint a District employee attending the field trip to implement any student's Emergency Care Plan if necessary, and bring all supplies necessary to do so.

Other Accommodations

1. Prohibit food and utensil trading and sharing, and post signs in schools informing students that they are expected to neither trade nor share food or utensils;
2. Designate particular tables in the cafeteria, particular classrooms, areas within classrooms, or other areas as allergen-free zones. These zones may be designated by a universal symbol, and be cleaned with a separate wash bucket and cloth with District-approved cleaning agents;
3. Post signs at points of entry to each school and/or on the school or District website advising that there are students with life-threatening allergies. Such signs may not disclose the identity of the student with the food allergy unless his or her parent has consented to that disclosure;
4. Hold Emergency Care Plan drills to assure the efficiency and effectiveness of such plans;
5. Develop a cleaning protocol to ensure that the threat of allergens is minimized.

Procedure History:

Adopted on: 03-13-2018

Revised on:

Reviewed on: