

## ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES

The Beresford School District shall strive to provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for students with diagnosed life threatening food allergies. There is an increasing prevalence of life threatening food allergies in school age children. The District fully supports the ongoing efforts to provide a safe and secure environment for students with diagnosed life threatening food allergies.

A comprehensive approach to compliance with this policy requires, but is not limited to, a focused effort by parents, students (when developmentally appropriate), school nurse, building administration, and school staff. Our school district policy shall include, but is not limited to, the following areas: identification; awareness; education and training; communication; prevention; emergency response plans and procedures; responsibilities of school personnel and parents; and continuing monitoring and compliance procedures.

It is a goal of the Beresford School District to maintain a safe and secure environment for students with life threatening food allergies by defining preventative measures and emergency response procedures. The District knows that risk can never be fully eliminated in the school environment but will strive to implement the following standards for providing and maintaining a safe and secure environment for students with life threatening food allergies and will address the following areas:

- Education and training shall be provided to all key personnel to include such things as epi-pen administration, emergency plans and procedures and implementation of a safe environment.
- Education and awareness training shall be offered to students and parents.
- Emergency plans and procedures shall be put in place for responding in a timely manner to emergency situations involving students with food allergies.
- Personnel must be available to monitor day-to-day compliance with the policy and implement emergency plans and procedures.
- A safe environment must be provided to all school locations for students with life threatening food allergies.

Children with allergies to tree nuts and/or peanuts can have an allergic reaction through contact, airborne, and/or ingestion. A reaction can occur by touching a nut (contact), having the allergen enter through inhalation (airborne) and/or by eating a food item that contains nut, even trace amounts (ingestion). Some children with nut allergies will have an allergic reaction through ingestion only, while others' will include a reaction by contact, airborne, and/or ingestion.

#### ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT PLAN—BERESFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

##### Identification:

- When a student enters the Beresford School District or if there is a change in the student's health status, parents are asked to complete a health form.
- This form alerts the school nurse to any health conditions that warrant further information.
- If this information involves an allergy, a treatment plan is completed by parent/guardian, school nurse and the student's doctor.

##### Awareness:

- Notify staff of students with allergies.
- Review policies and procedures annually.
- Equip buildings with signage.
- Inform all students in the district of the need for peanut/tree-nut safety precautions.

##### Education and Training:

- School nurse will provide education and training to onsite personnel for epi-pen administration, symptoms of exposure, and emergency plans and procedures.
- Education and awareness training will be offered to students, parents, and community groups.
- Personnel must be available to monitor day-to-day compliance with the policy and implement emergency plans and procedures.

##### Communication:

- School Handbook

- Student Orientation
- Open House
- Parent Meetings
- New Student Information Packets
- District Website
- District Communication Measures (Infinite Campus, Social Media Platforms -Twitter & Facebook, and Apptegy -Email, SMS, & Phone calls)

Prevention:

- In consideration of the age of the students, Beresford Elementary School (Grades K-5) will be a Peanut-Free/Nut-free School. Thus, nut products are restricted and not allowed at the Elementary School. Beresford Middle School/High School (Grades 6-12) will be a Peanut-Aware/Nut-Aware School. Students, staff, and patrons must be cognizant that some students attending school have life-threatening food allergies. The reason for the difference in the schools is when students enter middle school, they are more independent and more capable of self-monitoring their allergy.
- As proactive practice to prevent exposure to allergens or infectious disease, only prepackaged items with ingredient labels will be allowed for classroom snacks at the Elementary School and Middle School/High School. Food labels that say, "May contain peanut or tree nuts" (or similar wording) are NOT to be brought to the Elementary School to eat. If food items are not labeled with allergy information, they should not be given to children with allergies. No bake sale or homemade treats are allowed at the Elementary School and Middle School/High School.
- If a student brings peanut/tree-nut products in a home lunch at the Elementary School, the lunch will be taken by staff. The teacher/principal/staff will explain why the lunch was taken, and an alternative lunch will be provided. The school will call the parents that day explaining the incident. The foods the child brought that contained nut products will be identified so future problems can be avoided and the parent will be informed to pick up the lunch.
- An approved snack list will be provided at the Elementary School; only approved snacks will be allowed in the classrooms. We suggest families provide a non-food item for the classroom for birthday celebrations rather than treats. No homemade treats or other food items will be

allowed in the Elementary School building, unless they are prepackaged with ingredient labels and contain no peanut/tree-nut products.

Emergency Response:

- Students with anaphylactic allergies must have an allergy action plan on file in the school office.
- Epi-pens will be stored in the nurses' office, school office or classroom and will be administered in the event of an emergency.
- It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school of severe allergies requiring any of the above actions.
- It is also the parent's responsibility to provide the emergency medication.

Responsibilities of Building Administration:

- Assure that adequate training regarding life threatening food allergies is provided at the start of each school year to all district personnel who oversee students with life threatening food allergies.
- Assure that an Emergency Plan and emergency procedures are put in place for each student with life threatening food allergies.
- Assure adequate coverage with the school nurse where there are students with life threatening food allergies.
- In the Elementary School (Grades K-5), provide a peanut-free/tree nut-free school for children with peanut/tree nut allergies.
- In the Middle School/High School (Grades 6-12), provide a peanut/tree nut-awareness throughout the campus so students, staff, and patrons are cognizant that some students attending school have life-threatening food allergies.
- Monitor compliance of personnel with the Beresford School District Food Allergies policy.

Responsibilities of the School Nurse:

- Provide training regarding food allergy management, life-threatening food allergies, exposure symptoms, and epi-pen administration at the start of each school year to all personnel who oversee students with life threatening food allergies.

- Obtain completed physician and parent documentation of life threatening food allergies yearly from parent.
- Develop an emergency plan for each student based on the above mentioned medical documentation and update as necessary.
- Provide all personnel who oversee students with life-threatening food allergies with a list of these students.
- When possible, the school nurse will provide a classroom program regarding life-threatening food allergies to help raise student and parent education and awareness.

#### Responsibilities of the Teachers:

- Attend training at the start of each school year regarding the topic of food allergy management, life-threatening food allergies, exposure symptoms, and epi-pen administration.
- Obtain a copy, read, be familiar with and be prepared to act on student Emergency Plans for each student with life-threatening food allergies.
- Provide a peanut-free/tree nut-free classroom for children with a peanut/tree-nut allergy.
- Ensure only approved pre-package snacks with ingredient labels are allowed in the classroom.
- Provide a safe classroom environment and a safe field trip environment for all food allergic children.
- Be sure that student Emergency Plans are included in the "Substitute Teacher Folder."
- Coordinate with the school nurse to provide a classroom program regarding life-threatening food allergies to help raise student and parent education and awareness.
- Provide written notification (in the form provided by the school nurse) to all parents in the classroom of the peanut-free/tree nut-free status of the classroom/school.

#### Responsibilities of the Food Service Management Company:

- Assure that all food service staff attends training at the start of each school year regarding the topic of food allergy management, safe food allergen handling policies, life-threatening food allergies, exposure symptoms, and epi-pen administration.
- Eliminate food allergens including peanuts, tree nuts, and shellfish from all breakfast and school lunches.
- Assure only latex-free gloves will be used by food service staff.

- Report immediately to the appropriate staff if an elementary student has a lunch from home that contains peanut/tree-nut products.
- Assist in providing a safe cafeteria environment for all food allergic children.

Responsibilities of the Activities Director:

- Assure that all coaches who oversee students with life-threatening food allergies attend training on life-threatening food allergies, exposure symptoms and epi-pen administration.
- Obtain copy of Emergency Plan for each student with life-threatening food allergies.
- Establish medical emergency procedures with the school nurse, certified athletic trainer, and/or local EMS system during practice and competition.

Responsibilities of Transportation Director/Bus Drivers:

- Assure that all bus drivers (including substitute drivers) attend training regarding the topic of food allergy management, life-threatening food allergies, exposure symptoms, and epi-pen administration.
- Assure that each bus driver (including substitute drivers) who has students with life threatening food allergies on his or her bus has read, is familiar with and is prepared to act on student emergency plans.
- Assure that each bus driver (including substitute drivers) maintains a folder with emergency plans of students with life threatening food allergies who are on their bus next to the driver seat of the bus at all times (subject to parent approval of it being placed there).
- Bus drivers will monitor students to make sure no peanut/tree-nut products are eaten as snacks on school buses.
- There are no emergency medications provided on the school bus if a student comes in contact with an allergen.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians of Student with Life Threatening Food Allergies:

- Provide completed and signed physician and parent documentation of their child's life threatening food allergies yearly.

- Encourage food allergic children to wear identification bracelet/necklace indicating a life-threatening allergy.
- Review and sign final emergency plan yearly and sign updated emergency plan as necessary.
- Deliver medications referenced in emergency plan to school nurse as needed—prescription label with the student's name and physician's authorization and dosage must be on the epi-pen or the epi-pen must be brought in the original box from the pharmacy.
- Replace medications which are about to expire on a timely basis.
- Inform school nurse and district staff if the student will also be carrying an epi-pen on them or in their back pack, gym bag, etc.

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