

Amherst Pelham Regional Schools

Life Threatening Allergy Guidelines

The Amherst, Pelham and the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Districts (ARPS) provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff at school to the extent reasonably possible. Students identified with life-threatening allergies will be provided for as medically necessary in the school environment. The ARPS guidelines will help reduce exposure to allergens to the best of our ability, knowing that we can be allergen-aware, not allergen free, and to follow established procedures to treat allergic reactions.

A student identified as having a life-threatening allergy must have a written statement clearly documenting the allergy from his/her health care provider/allergy specialist along with a written medication order, parent/guardian consent for required interventions and medication. ARPS will provide training to educate staff in the management of life threatening allergies.

No student shall be discriminated against or excluded from school activities based on their life-threatening allergy except as permitted under the regulations and guidance pursuant to Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The school will implement the following guidelines to provide a safe and socially inclusive environment for the student.

The Amherst, Pelham and the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Districts are "allergy aware" schools. Families and personnel are respectfully asked to refrain from bringing nuts or foods processed with nuts in lunches and snacks. We have many students with serious nut allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock due to cross contamination (i.e., a student eats nuts, then plays on equipment and the nut oils are transferred... later a student with a nut allergy comes in contact with the same equipment and suffers a reaction). Please help the school keep all students healthy. This practice means: ***Do Not Bring Nuts or Foods Processed with Nuts into the Schools***

Life Threatening Allergy Protocols

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

- Provide documentation from the student's health care providers regarding the student's allergy prior to the opening of school or as soon as possible after diagnosis. The health care provider should be the allergist or similar specialist to the extent that the student has such a provider. In the case of a food allergy, provide a list of foods/ingredients the student child must avoid.
- When registering your child for a before or after school activity, include this information on the registration form.
- Provide the school with up-to-date medication (epinephrine auto-injector), medication orders from a licensed health care provider and parent/guardian consent forms for medication administration.

- Provide the school with a way to reach you at all times or an available local emergency contact.
- Provide the school nurse with any changes in your student's allergy status as soon as they occur and on an annual basis.
- Educate your child about her/his allergy: importance of avoiding allergens, symptoms of a reaction and how to communicate to an adult if they think a reaction is starting.
- If possible, attend field trips that your child is participating in. Parents who are attending field trips for medical purposes and cannot afford to pay a fee for such attendance shall have the fee waived by the District.
- Although classroom celebrations are expected to be all inclusive, to follow our "allergy aware" guidelines, and not include items that may contain known food allergens affecting a student in the class, you may want to have known 'safe' foods for your child in the classroom.
- If applicable, provide the school nurse with a signed statement from your child's health care provider stating they no longer have life threatening allergies.
- If the student is planning to take an alternative bus, provide written notification to the driver of the life threatening allergy.

Recommendations for Students

- Based on the student's age and developmental level, students are encouraged to be proactive in the care and management of their allergies and reactions. All guidelines below are considered recommendations but it will not be assumed that any child can take full responsibility for their own allergy management.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after eating (hand sanitizer is not effective).
- Learn to recognize symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Promptly inform adult as soon as possible exposure occurs or symptoms appear.
- Do not trade or share food.
- Do not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Develop a relationship with the school nurse and other adults in the school to help identify issues related to managing the allergy in school.
- Notify an adult immediately if feeling threatened or bullied as it relates to their life threatening allergy.
- Student may carry epinephrine auto-injector on self if school nurse, parent or guardian and licensed prescriber are in agreement.

School's Responsibility

- A nurse will be available for students who have a life-threatening allergy. A back-up plan will be in place when there is not a school nurse available on-site. Parents of children with life threatening allergies will be notified if there will not be a nurse present at school when feasible.
- Communication devices will be provided for staff use to maintain contact with the nurse and/or other school staff in case of a medical emergency.
- The school's emergency response plan will include a written plan that outlines the management of life threatening emergencies.

- In the event of an allergen exposure, policies and procedures will be reviewed.
- School personnel will receive appropriate training in allergic response recognition and response as needed.
- Teacher's substitute plans will include information about students with life-threatening allergies or the school shall require all substitutes to check in at the office before their workday begins to obtain information on those students with life-threatening allergies.
- Before and after-school program notification as necessary.
- All staff that will have contact with students - Special's teachers, ELL teachers, counseling staff etc. will be notified and reminded about children with food allergies, even if those children are not routinely assigned to that room/activity.
- After reviewing the health records provided by the parent/guardian, the school nurse will develop an individual health care plan. Plans will be reviewed and updated annually or as needed. 504 plans will be developed as necessary, following Section 504 and the ADA's regulations and guidance for evaluation and team process.

Nurse's Responsibility

- The school nurse will train and educate staff members in recognizing allergy symptoms due to food, insect, medication or latex exposure; emergency procedures; exposure risk reduction; and epinephrine auto-injector administration.
- The nurse will assist the teacher in field trip planning and preparation for the student with life threatening allergies.
- The nurse will maintain emergency medication and medication order for epinephrine for emergency use.
- Emergency medications will be stored in safe and appropriate locations.
- The nurse will keep a current confidential record of all students with life threatening allergies and notify appropriate staff of student life threatening allergies.

Teacher's Responsibility

- The teacher will have a current record of all students with life-threatening allergies and the location of epinephrine auto-injector. This information should be available for any personnel, including substitute staff working with students.
- Will participate in nurse training regarding life threatening allergies.
- Will collaborate with the school nurse to create developmentally appropriate allergy avoidance plans for student from preschool through high school.
- Will work with families to set guidelines for classroom concerns that relate to life threatening allergies.
- Will address the needs of students with life-threatening allergies for class special occasions.
- Will plan celebrations involving food to be inclusive for all students. The teacher will remind classroom parents/guardians about life threatening food allergies and offer alternate suggestions for celebrations so that all can be included in the celebration.
- Any foods distributed by the teacher will not contain nuts or foods processed with nuts and will not contain the allergen of a student in the class with a life threatening food allergy.
- Will communicate with the school nurse when planning a class field trip or off-campus events so appropriate arrangements can be made.

- Will have access to a telephone in case of an emergency on a field trip.
- Will encourage hand washing with soap and water.
- Will post signs in the classroom and notify the families of classmates that food entering the classroom is not to contain the allergen of the student with a life threatening allergy.

Food Services Personnel's Responsibility

- Will use standards in food preparation to avoid cross-contamination of allergens.
- Will maintain contact and ingredient information of food products and distributors.
- Will have annual in-service on life threatening allergies.

Cafeteria Protocol

- Cafeteria monitors, to the extent the school has monitors, will be informed about student allergies.
- The principal, in consultation with the nurse, will determine if additional monitors are necessary when food allergic children are eating in the cafeteria of the principal's school.
- Cafeteria monitors will support the expectation that students are not to trade or share foods.
- Cafeteria personnel will wash all tables between lunches when there is a food-allergic student who will be eating in the cafeteria at a later lunch.

School Transportation Responsibility

- Based on the age/needs of the individual child it may be determined that a bus monitor is appropriate, to ensure safety for the child with a life threatening allergy. This determination is made by the student's 504 or IEP Team.
- Will ensure school bus driver training in managing life-threatening allergies and use of epinephrine auto-injector.
- Will provide emergency communication devices for drivers.
- Bus drivers will be provided information on students with life-threatening allergies.
- Will remind students about no eating policy on school bus during regular transportation to and from school during the school year. Bus drivers will follow protocol for emergency response.

Custodial Services Responsibility

- Custodial staff will use appropriate products when cleaning to remove food residue from surfaces.
- Will inspect school buildings and playground areas for signs of bees or insects.