

ANAPHYLAXIS AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES

(1) **Avoidance Strategies**

The River East Transcona School Division will make every effort to protect students with life threatening allergies from exposure to known allergens; however, **no individual or organization can guarantee an allergy-free environment.** In order to minimize the risk of exposure and to ensure immediate response to an emergency, the division has identified responsibilities of all students, parents and school staff to increase awareness, provide accurate information and strategies for avoidance.

(2) **Responsibilities of all School Administrators**

(a) **Awareness and Information**

- (i) The school administrator will, at the beginning of the school year, provide general awareness regarding life-threatening allergies to the school community through letters, notices, or school newsletters.
- (ii) The school administrator will, at the end of the school year, issue a notice thanking the community for support in refraining from bringing peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts and products containing them, into the schools, school grounds or student learning environments.

(b) **Avoidance**

- (i) The school administrator will support the implementation of strategies and procedures to reduce the risk for the allergic student in classrooms and common areas of the school.
- (ii) The school administrator will notify all staff that they are not to use peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts, and products containing them for teaching purposes, art projects, special events or personal consumption in the classroom and request that they refrain from bringing these products into the schools, school grounds or student learning environments.
- (iii) The school administrator will support the implementation of avoidance strategies by individuals responsible for the sale or provision of food in the school, including those involved in daily lunch programs, special lunch programs and cafeterias. Minimal expectations for avoidance would be not using packages of peanuts or nuts, peanut butter, or peanut oil.

ANAPHYLAXIS AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES

- (iv) The school administrator will ensure school fundraising groups know that only fundraising products that are nut free and produced/packaged in a nut free environment are permitted.
- (v) The school administrator will, at the beginning of the school year, issue a notice reminding both students and other school community members to refrain from bringing peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts and products containing them, into the schools, school grounds or student learning environments.
- (vi) The school administrator will, at the end of the school year, issue a notice thanking the community for support in refraining from bringing peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts and products containing them, into the schools, school grounds or student learning environments.

(3) Responsibilities of Staff/Teacher

(a) Awareness and Information

- (i) Staff will attend awareness and training sessions on life-threatening allergies at least once each year or as requested by the school administrator.

(b) Avoidance

- (i) Staff will assist, when requested by the school administrator, with implementing and supporting the strategies and procedures to reduce the risk for the student with allergies in classrooms and common areas of the school.
- (ii) Staff will not bring peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts or products containing them or a substance with a recommendation of strict avoidance by a physician, into schools, school grounds or learning environments for teaching purposes, art projects, special events, or personal consumption.

ANAPHYLAXIS AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES

(4) Responsibilities of all Parents in the School Community

(a) Awareness and Information

- (i) Parents should attend any information sessions and/or read any information received from the school regarding life-threatening allergies. Parents should contact the school administrator to address any questions or concerns.

(b) Avoidance

- (i) Parents should respond to any requests from the school to assist with reducing the risk by not sending specific allergic substances.
- (ii) Parents should encourage their children to wash their hands prior to going to school, particularly if they have consumed peanut butter, peanuts or nut products, and as requested while at school.
- (iii) Parents should assist their children in understanding the seriousness of life-threatening allergies and encourage them to be supportive and respect the student with the allergies. Parents should review the information provided by the school.
- (iv) Parents will inform the teacher before sending food products to school for parties and special events so the teacher can remind the parents that nut products as well as other allergic substances related to the class are not permitted.
- (v) Parents will report to the school administrator any information regarding situations where the student with allergies has been teased, bullied, or threatened with the allergic substance.

(5) Responsibilities of Students Identified as Having a Life-Threatening Allergy

(a) Awareness and Information

- (i) The student will participate in the school planning team when appropriate.
- (ii) The student will assess the school environment for any potential risks and present any concerns to a designated adult.

ANAPHYLAXIS AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES

- (iii) A student in middle or senior years will ensure that all staff members who are involved with them are notified of the life-threatening allergy. This will be particularly important when there are changes throughout the year such as staff changes and timetable changes.

(b) **Avoidance**

- (i) The student will take as much responsibility as possible for avoiding contact with allergens.
- (ii) The student with food allergies will eat only food that has been sent from home for lunch and special occasions.
- (iii) The student with food allergies will refrain from sharing lunches, snacks or drinks.
- (iv) The student with food allergies will refrain from sharing any eating utensils or cups.
- (v) The student with food allergies will refrain from purchasing food products from school.
- (vi) The student will be able to identify their allergens.
- (vii) The student will be able to recognize dangerous situations posed by their allergies.
- (viii) The student will remove themselves from dangerous situations regarding allergens and report any concerns to a designated adult.
- (ix) The student will follow hand-washing routines before and after eating.

(6) **Responsibilities of all Students in the School (as developmentally appropriate)**

(a) **Awareness and Information**

- (i) Students will be attentive during class presentations on life-threatening allergies, particularly with regard to information about recognizing symptoms of an allergic reaction and the emergency procedures to follow if a fellow student has an anaphylactic reaction.

(b) **Avoidance**

ANAPHYLAXIS AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES

- (i) Students will follow the expectations for keeping specific allergic substances out of the classroom.
- (ii) Students will follow expectations for not sharing food and eating utensils.
- (iii) Students will follow expectations regarding hand washing prior to coming to school and during school.
- (iv) Students will refrain from teasing, bullying or threatening the student with allergies with the allergic substance.

(7) **Responsibilities of Divisional Employees**

All employees of the River East Transcona School Division will not bring products containing peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts or products containing them, into the schools, school grounds or student learning environments.

(8) **Responsibilities of Non-Divisional Employees**

Everyone entering River East Transcona School Division will not bring products containing peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts or products containing them, into the schools, school grounds or student learning environments.

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