

Get Your School Schooled in Anaphylaxis!

get schooled in
ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction, is a significant problem — especially among children — that can happen anywhere. Avoidance of allergic triggers is the critical first step in managing potentially life-threatening (severe) allergies, but allergens are not always obvious, and accidental exposure may still happen. This is why everyone in the school community needs to work together to reduce the risk of exposure to allergens and ensure everyone can recognize the signs and symptoms and be ready to respond if anaphylaxis occurs.

Following are some tips to help educate your staff, students and their families about severe allergies. These tips can help guide you in the development of a detailed severe allergy management policy or guideline for your school.

Please note many of the examples focus on anaphylaxis as a result of food allergies. This is because food allergies are the most common cause of anaphylaxis. However, other allergens that may cause anaphylaxis might be present in the school setting, such as stinging or biting insects and latex. The tips and information provided can be adapted for the management of non-food allergens as well, and this is important to ensure a comprehensive severe allergy management policy for your school.

Understand the Laws – 504 Plans and Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP)

Severe allergies can be considered a disability under several federal laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In particular, Section 504 prohibits discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in the programs or activities of any agency receiving federal financial assistance – which includes almost all schools.

If one of your students has a severe allergy that is determined by a medical professional to be a disability, your school must complete a 504 Plan. This plan covers the appropriate accommodations, substitutions and services required to manage the student's severe allergy. Your school staff should be provided training to ensure they understand what is required of them to ensure compliance with federal laws. Additionally, a team of people should be assigned as the school's Section 504 coordinators and severe allergy management team.

Not all students require a 504 Plan. For those that don't require a 504 Plan, appropriate information should be documented in an IHP. IHPs are nursing care plans that communicate nursing care needs to school administrators, teachers, health assistants and parents/caregivers. An IHP helps ensure that all necessary information, needs and plans are considered to maximize the student's participation and performance in school.

The Get Schooled in Anaphylaxis initiative offers practical information to educate the school community to help those at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions avoid their triggers, recognize anaphylaxis signs and symptoms and understand how to quickly get appropriate treatment and immediate medical care when anaphylaxis occurs.

The Get Schooled in Anaphylaxis logo is a registered trademark of Mylan Specialty L.P. The Mylan Better Health for a Better World logo is a trademark of Mylan Inc. © 2017 All rights reserved. NON-2017-0486



Get Your School Schooled in Anaphylaxis!

get schooled in
ANAPHYLAXIS

Develop a Policy or Guidelines for Your School

One of the best ways to ensure your staff, students and their families are properly educated about severe allergies is to develop a comprehensive policy or set of guidelines that can be shared with everyone for the management of severe allergies. This policy should cover school settings, as well as school-associated settings, such as field trips and extracurricular activity facilities. The policy should be developed with input from a wide array of experienced professionals, including school administrators, licensed healthcare professionals, teachers, students and families. A comprehensive policy addresses the following essential components:

- ★ Identification of students with food allergies and provision of school health services
- ★ Individual written management plans
- ★ Medication protocols: storage, access and administration
- ★ Healthy school environments: comprehensive and coordinated approach
- ★ Communication and confidentiality
- ★ Emergency response
- ★ Professional development and training for school personnel including, teachers, coaches, after-school activity directors, etc.
- ★ Awareness education for students, including avoidance of triggers
- ★ Awareness education and resources for parents/caregivers
- ★ Monitoring and evaluation

Don't Forget: Severe allergies are a complex, serious issue, and it is important that everyone involved in caring for a student work together to help create a more allergy-friendly environment for their students.

This fact sheet was adapted from the National School Board Association (NSBA)'s comprehensive policy guide for students with food allergies.

The Get Schooled in Anaphylaxis initiative offers practical information to educate the school community to help those at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions avoid their triggers, recognize anaphylaxis signs and symptoms and understand how to quickly get appropriate treatment and immediate medical care when anaphylaxis occurs.

The Get Schooled in Anaphylaxis logo is a registered trademark of Mylan Specialty L.P. The Mylan Better Health for a Better World logo is a trademark of Mylan Inc. © 2017 All rights reserved. NON-2017-0486

