

FOOD ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

1.0 Objectives

The objective of this document is to describe food allergy management

2.0 Scope

This process applies to GIIS Dubai.

3.0 Policies

This policy is concerned with a whole school approach to the health care and management of those students & staff of the school community suffering from specific allergies.

Rationale

GIIS is not to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimize the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies. The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any student suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis whilst at school or attending any school related activity. The common causes of allergies relevant to this policy are nuts (in particular peanuts), dairy products, eggs, wasps, bees and ants. ***An allergic reaction to nuts is the most common high risk allergy, and as such demands*** more rigorous controls throughout the policy.

Background

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame and certain insect stings (particularly bee stings).

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of the student who has been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergens, and prevention of exposure to those allergens. Partnerships between schools and parents/guardians are important in helping the student avoid exposure.

Purpose

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy/guidelines in the school community.
- To engage with parents/guardians of each student at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimization strategies for the student.
- To ensure that staff have knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's guidelines and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimize the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.
- ***Age appropriate student education*** on allergy awareness and self-responsibility.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the staff

- School Staff
- Parents / Guardians
- Teachers

Students' Medication will be kept in a secure place, out of the reach of pupils. Unless otherwise indicated all medication to be administered in school will be kept in a medicine cabinet.

The school will keep records of all medication administered. If children refuse to take medicines, staff will not force them to do so, and will inform the parents of the refusal, as a matter of urgency, on the same day. If a refusal to take medicines results in an emergency, the school's emergency procedures will be followed.

It is the responsibility of parents to:

Notify the school in writing if the pupil's need for medication has ceased.

Renew the medication when supplies are running low and to ensure that the medication supplied is within its expiry date.

Parental instruction

- The school will not make changes to dosages on parental instructions.
- School staff will not dispose of medicines. Medicines, which are in use and on date, should be collected by the parent at the end of each term.
- Date expired medicines or those no longer required for treatment will be returned immediately to the parent for transfer to a community pharmacist for safe disposal.
- For each pupil with long-term or complex medication needs, the Principal will ensure that a Medication Plan and Protocol is drawn up, in conjunction with the appropriate health professionals.
- Parents will be asked to confirm in writing if they wish their child to carry their medication with them in school.
- Inhalers should be kept in the medical cupboard but senior pupils may take responsibility for keeping their own inhalers.

The nurse will organize a school allergy list that will be given to the teaching staff, admin staff and supervisors; it will include a photo of the student and specific information about their allergy and symptoms.

All students with life threatening allergies will have their photo attached to the allergy list, and will be identified at registration; if the student requires an Epi-pen its location will also be documented on the list.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

- a) While it is impossible to create a totally risk-free environment, school staff and parents will take every precaution to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions.
- b) An emergency response treatment protocol will be completed for all students with life threatening allergies. A copy will be given to the parent/ guardian. The protocol will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is still current.
- c) The Parents are requested to provide an Individual Health Care Plan from their doctor and will be attached to the child's file.

Individual Healthcare Plan will include:

- A plan for transport to the nearest emergency facility.
- Telephone number for parents and alternate emergency contacts.
- Students' photo.
- Specific information about the student's allergy.
- Authorization and direction for administering emergency medications.
- Treatment protocol form will include parental authorization for emergency protocol.
- Emergency medication will be stored, in a location which is known to all staff e.g. Epi-pens. Epipens are only designed to give you a grace period to seek medical help. From the time of injection, you have 15 minutes to get an ambulance or get to an emergency facility.

SAFE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES

- Students with allergies must only eat the food they bring from home.
- Trading and sharing food is not permitted.
- Students are reminded not to share cups and straws.
- Hand washing is required before and after eating.
- Desk and other eating surfaces are kept clean after food.
- Information regarding the students' allergies is kept in the file of each staff member privately.

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