



Hancock Public Schools

Independent School District No. 768

Hancock Public School Anaphylaxis Policy

Background: The incidence of severe allergic reactions has been rising at an alarming rate, especially with regard to food. Other common causes of anaphylaxis include allergies to latex, medications, and insect stings.

Pathophysiology and treatment: Anaphylaxis can affect almost any part of the body and cause various symptoms. The most dangerous symptoms include breathing difficulties and a drop in blood pressure or shock, which are potentially fatal.

Medications:

- Epinephrine
- Antihistamines

Treatment of anaphylaxis is centered on treating the rapidly progressing effects of the histamine release in the body with epinephrine. The allergen should also be removed immediately.

Creating an Allergen- Safe School Environment

- Protecting a student from exposure to offending allergens is the most important way to prevent life- threatening anaphylaxis.
- Avoidance of exposure to allergens is the key to preventing a reaction.
- The risk of exposure to allergens for a student is reduced when the school personnel, medical provider and parent/guardian work together to develop a management plan for the student.
- Educating the entire school community about life- threatening allergies is important in keeping students with life- threatening allergies safe.

School Team

Individuals responsible for assisting to maintain an allergen-safe school environment, assisting students who have known allergies, and identifying those having an allergic reaction include:

- School District administration and support staff
- School Nurse
- Teachers
- Staff trained in EpiPen administration (including the Emergency Response team)
- Food Service Personnel
- Coaches, Athletic Directors, and after school volunteers
- Transportation Personnel

Action Steps for Anaphylaxis Management

- Providing necessary precautions and general training for staff in transportation, classrooms, the cafeteria, or the gymnasium.
- Training by school nurse for all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of a specific medical condition for specific students.
- Creating Emergency Care Plans (ECP), Individual Health Care Plans (IHP), or Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) as indicated.
- Having standing emergency medical protocols including stock EpiPen Protocol and a Quick Reference Guide for Anaphylaxis for nursing and other trained staff.
- Maintaining stock supplies of life saving emergency medications, such as stock EpiPens, in the school office vault for use in first time emergencies.
- Allowing self- directed students as assessed by the school nurse to carry lifesaving medication with prior approval by the medical provider, and according to health practice and procedures.