

Administrative Procedure 317

ANAPHYLAXIS

Background

Anaphylaxis – sometimes called “allergic shock”, is a severe allergic reaction, which can lead to rapid death if untreated. Common allergens causing anaphylaxis in student(s) can be: nuts, milk, eggs, shellfish, wheat, insect stings, medications and latex. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition regardless of the substance which triggers it.

Symptoms

1. An anaphylactic reaction can involve any of the following symptoms, which may appear alone or in any combination, regardless of the triggering allergen:
 - 1.1 Skin: hives, swelling, itching, warmth, redness, rash
 - 1.2 Respiratory (breathing): wheezing, shortness of breath, throat tightness, cough, hoarse voice, chest pain/tightness, nasal congestion or hay fever-like symptoms (runny itchy nose and watery eyes, sneezing), trouble swallowing
 - 1.3 Gastrointestinal (stomach): nausea, pain/cramps, vomiting, diarrhea
 - 1.4 Cardiovascular (heart): pale/blue colour, weak pulse, passing out, dizzy/light-headed, shock
 - 1.5 Other: anxiety, feeling of “impending doom”, headache, uterine cramps in females
2. The most dangerous symptoms of an allergic reaction involve:
 - 2.1 Breathing difficulties caused by swelling of the airways and
 - 2.2 A drop in blood pressure indicated by dizziness, light-headedness or feeling faint/weak.
 - 2.3 Both of these symptoms may lead to death if untreated.
3. While the Division cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, it will strive to provide a safe environment for student(s) with life-threatening allergies.

Procedures

1. Individuals at risk for an anaphylaxis reaction will be identified at the time of registration. Parents/guardians and adult students are asked to provide the school with medical information in accordance with this administrative procedure and Administrative Procedure 316 – Student Medical Needs.
2. Parents/guardians and adult students must complete medical procedure forms (Parent/Guardian Medical Procedure Request/Waiver or Adult Student Medical Procedure

Request/Waiver), the Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan and provide an adequate supply of up-to-date auto-injections and/or other prescribed medications.

3. Parents/guardians and adult students not wishing to comply, must sign the refusal section on the applicable forms.
4. Each Principal or designate will prepare a “school anaphylaxis plan” which defines roles and responsibilities of parents, staff, and students. It will include information about:
 - 4.1 Avoidance strategies
 - 4.2 Staff training, and
 - 4.3 Emergency protocols
5. In the event of an allergic reaction, school personnel will first follow the student’s Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan and then the Severe Injury at School Procedures as noted in Administrative Procedure 165 – Appendix A - Division Emergency Response Plan.

Reference: Section 18, 20, 45, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Administrative Procedure 165 Appendix A – Division Emergency Response Plan
Administrative Procedure 316 – Student Medical Needs
Alberta Health Services Healthy Schools Manual
Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards, Canadian School Boards Association
ATA Provision of Medical Services to Medically Fragile Students
Emergency Medical Aid Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act

Forms: 316-1 Parent/Guardian Medical Procedure Request/Waiver
316-2 Adult/Student Medical Procedure Request/Waiver
317-1 Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan