

Revise to: *Anaphylaxis Policy 7.13.6*

The Guntersville City School System recognizes the concern with severe life-threatening allergic reactions, especially with regard to food items. 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 used for treatment:

- 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:

The Guntersville City School System supports the three levels of prevention through its methods of creating an allergen-safe environment.

Level I - Primary Prevention: Education programs that address food allergies and anaphylaxis through both classroom and individual instruction for staff and students.

Level II- Secondary Prevention: Identification and management of chronic illness.

Level III- Tertiary Prevention: The development of a planned response to anaphylaxis-related emergencies in the school setting.

- 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.

Identifying the School Team

Guntersville City Schools will support the Anaphylaxis Preparedness Program by helping to monitor the medication supply for availability and by keeping it in a secure but accessible location. Support will also be provided to ensure that school staff are trained and retrained as deemed necessary. Currently Guntersville City Schools will secure student specific Epi pens and document the location of Epi pens in each student's Individualized Health Plan.

- Lead Nurse - Guntersville City Schools will consult with a physician who will serve as a medical director providing authorization for this program. The Lead Nurse will assist with program oversight and strive to meet practices offered through research on the topic of

anaphylaxis, offering his/her guidance for the nursing protocols and prescriptive authority.

- School Nurse – School nurses will be the Anaphylaxis Preparedness Program site coordinator for each campus. Each school nurse will work with the principal to ensure staff are trained and retrained as deemed necessary. The school nurses will also monitor the safety and security of the medication by checking the expiration date and inspecting the medication to see if any tampering has occurred. The school nurse will respond to emergencies when possible and continue to function in the role as school nurse with other duties.
- Teachers- Teachers will be provided information each year on the school program, the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the location of the medication and the forms. Teachers will be offered training each year to recognize and respond to anaphylactic emergencies.
- Food Service Personnel- Food service personnel will be provided information each year on the school program, the sign and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the location of the medication, and the forms. The food service personnel will be offered training each year to recognize and respond to anaphylactic emergencies.
- Coaches, Athletic Directors, and After- School Volunteers – These people will be provided information each year on the school program, the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the location of the medication, and the forms. Coaches will be offered training each year to recognize and respond to anaphylactic emergencies.
- Transportation Personnel- These people will be provided information each year on the school program, the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the location of the medication, and the forms. Bus drivers will be offered training each year to recognize and respond to anaphylactic emergencies.

Action Steps for Anaphylaxis Management

- Providing necessary precautions and general training for all staff to include how to recognize symptoms of a severe allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis.
- Training by licensed registered professional nurses for all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of a specific medical condition for specific students.
- Creating Individual Health Care Plans (IHP), Emergency Care Plans (ECP), 504 Plans, or Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) as indicated.
- Having standing emergency medical protocols for nursing staff. Guntersville City Schools will follow emergency medical protocols as written in a student specific Parent Prescriber Authorization Form.
- Maintaining stock supplies of life -saving emergency medications, such as premeasured, auto injectable epinephrine (EpiPens) in all health offices for use in first time emergencies if state funding supports the purchase of said medication.
- Following specific legal documents duly executed in accordance with the regulations and laws with medical orders regarding the care of specific students with severe life-threatening conditions.

- Allowing self-directed students as assessed by the school nurse to carry life-saving medication with prior approval by the medical provider, and according to health practice and procedures, as long as duplicate life-saving medication is also maintained in the health office in the event the self-carrying student misplaces his/her medicines.
- Assuring appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place within a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

Responsibilities of Personnel

Section 1: School System Superintendent

- Provide leadership and designate school district resources to implement the school district's approach to managing severe allergies.
- Promote, disseminate and communicate anaphylaxis allergy-related policy to all school staff, families, and the community.
- Ensure that each school has a team that is responsible for allergy management.
- Be familiar with federal and state laws, including regulations, and policies relevant to the obligations of schools to students with severe allergies, and make sure district policies and practices follow these laws.
- Support professional development on anaphylaxis for employees.

Section 2: School Administrators (Principal or Assistant Principals)

- Coordinate planning and implementation of a comprehensive Anaphylaxis Allergy Management and Prevention Plan for the school in conjunction with the school nurse and school improvement team.
- Communicate school district policy for managing severe allergies to all school staff, substitute teachers, classroom volunteers and families.
- Share information about students with severe allergies with all staff members **who need to know**, provided the exchange of information occurs in accordance with FERPA and any other federal and state laws that protect the confidentiality or privacy of student information.
- Support professional development on anaphylaxis for employees.

Section 3: School Nurse

- Take the lead in planning and implementing the school's Anaphylaxis Allergy Management Prevention Plan.
- Support partnerships among school staff and the parents and doctors (e.g., pediatricians or allergist) of students with severe allergies.
- Make sure that students with severe allergies are identified and share information with other staff who need to know in accordance with FERPA and any other federal and state laws that protect the confidentiality or privacy of student information.
- Develop an Individual/Emergency Care Plan for each student with a severe allergy and share with appropriate staff.
- Have the epinephrine kept in a secure place that trained staff can get to quickly and easily.
- Annually train staff how to administer an epinephrine auto-injector and recognize the signs and symptoms of food allergy reactions and anaphylaxis.
- Make sure that food service staff are aware of what actions must be taken as written in ECP if a food allergy emergency occurs in the cafeteria.
- Make sure that staff plan for the needs of students with food/latex/insect allergies during class field trip and during other extracurricular activities.

- Work with other school staff and parents to create a safe environment for students with severe allergies.

Section 4: Lead Nurse

- Serve as a Lead Nurse on a consultation basis in the school system, supporting the coordinated approach to managing severe allergies and anaphylaxis.
- Support the use of epinephrine in the schools, and having prescriptive authority.
- Support partnerships among school staff, the parents and doctors (e.g., pediatricians or allergists) of students with severe allergies.
- Guide and support the allergy management practices of school nurses in accordance with the Nurse Practice Act and federal or state legislation.

Section 5: Food Service Staff

- Identify, with the assistance of the school nurse, students with severe allergies in a way that does not compromise students' privacy or confidentiality rights.
- Make sure to have and understand dietary orders or the doctor's statement and other relevant medical information that is needed to make meal accommodations for students with food allergies.
- Follow policies and procedures to prevent allergic reactions and cross-contact of potential food allergens during food preparation and service.
- Manage food substitutions for students with food allergies.
- Complete annual training to help recognize the following:
 - Signs and Symptoms of allergic reactions and how they are communicated by students.
 - How to read food labels and identify allergens.
 - How to use an epinephrine auto-injector (if delegated and trained to do so).
 - How to deal with emergencies in the school in ways that are consistent with a student's ECP.
 - When and how to call EMS and parents.
 - How FERPA, USDA, and other federal and state laws that protect the privacy and confidentiality of student information apply to students with food allergies and food allergy disabilities.
- Understand information provided by the school nurse on emergency care plan for managing students with severe allergies being transported to or from school.
- Understand and complete annual training to help you recognize the following:
 - Signs and symptoms of severe allergy and how they are communicated by students.
 - How to respond to a severe allergy emergency while transporting children to and from school.
 - How to use an epinephrine auto-injector (if delegated and trained to do so).
 - How to deal with emergencies in a way that is consistent with a student's ECP or transportation emergency protocol.
 - FERPA, USDA, and other federal and state laws that protect the privacy or confidentiality of student information and other legal rights of students with severe allergies.
 - Policies that prohibit discrimination and bullying against all students, including those with food/latex/insect allergies.

Section 7: Teachers and Other Unlicensed Personnel

- Receive emergency care plan from school nurse and understand the essential actions needed to be taken to help manage severe allergy reactions under your supervision,

including when meals or snacks are served in the classroom, on field trips, or during extracurricular activities.

- Work with parents and the school nurse and other appropriate school personnel to determine if any classroom modifications are needed.
- Share information and responsibilities with substitute teachers and other adults who regularly help in the classroom (para educators, aides, instructional specialists) if permitted by the parents.
- Complete training to help you recognize and understand the following:
- General strategies for reducing or preventing exposure to food allergens in the classroom, such as cleaning surfaces, using nonfood items for celebrations, and getting rid of nonfood items that contain food allergens (e.g., clay, paste).
- Policies on bullying and discrimination against all students, including those with food allergies.

Section 6: Transportation Staff

- Signs and symptoms of severe allergies and how they are manifested in and communicated by students.
- How to read food labels and identify allergens.
- How to use an epinephrine auto-injector (if delegated and trained to do so).
- How to respond to food allergy emergencies in ways that are consistent with a student's ECP, if appropriate; a Section 504 Plan; or IEP, if appropriate.
- When and how to call EMS and parents.

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