

COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH



GERMANTOWN
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2014-2015 Managing Food Allergies In Schools Guide

Germantown Municipal School District offers educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, creed, age, disability or national origin.

Roles & Responsibilities for Managing Food Allergies in Schools

Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure can be reduced in the school setting if schools, students, parents, and physicians work together to minimize risks of exposure to allergens and provide safe educational environment for food allergic-students.

Family's Role

- Notify the school of the student's allergies
- Work with the school teams to develop a plan that accommodate the student's needs throughout the school, including the classroom, the cafeteria, aftercare programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus, as well as Individualized Emergency Health Care Plan (IHCP).
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician, using the Severe Allergy Action Plan as a guide.
- Provide properly labeled medication and properly replace medications after use or upon expiration.
- Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including:
 - Safe and unsafe foods;
 - Strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods;
 - Symptoms of allergic reactions;
 - How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem; and
 - How to read food labels (age-appropriate)
- Review policies and procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide current emergency contact information and update regularly.

School's Role

- Review the health records submitted by parents and physicians.
- Identify core team including the school nurse, teacher(s), school food service and nutrition manager/director to work with parents and student (age-appropriate) to establish and IHCP. Changes to the IHCP that promote food allergy management should be made with core team participation.
- Assure that all staff that interacts with the allergy student on a regular basis understands food allergies, can recognize symptoms, and know what to do in emergency.
- Works with other school staff to control the use of food allergens in the affected student or student's meals, educational tools, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.

- Coordinate with the school nurse to ensure medications are appropriately stored, and ensure sure that an emergency kit is available that contains a physician’s standing order for epinephrine. Epinephrine should be kept in a secure but unlocked location that is easily accessible to delegated school personnel.
- Students who are permitted to self-administer should be permitted to carry their own epinephrine, In accordance with state regulations and district policies.
- Designate school personnel who will volunteer to administer epinephrine in an emergency.
- Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medication during the school day, regardless of time or location.
- Work with the transportation administrator to:
 - Ensure that school bus drivers receive training and include symptoms awareness and what to do if a reaction occurs, and
 - Assist the means by which bus driver can communicate during emergency, including proper devices and equipment.
- Discuss field trips with the family of the food allergic-child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.
- Follow Federal and/or State laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about student.
- Take threats for harassment against an allergic child seriously.

Student’s Role

- Students should not trade food with others.
- Students should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergens.
- Students should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Students should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food, which they are allergic.

These roles were adopted from
SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES
Developed by the Food Allergy and if Anaphylaxis Network in conjunction with:

American School Food Service Association
 National Association of Elementary School Principal
 National Association of School Nurses
 National School Boards Association
 The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network