



Life Threatening Allergy Policy

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening medical condition occurring in allergic individuals after exposure to their specific allergens. Anaphylaxis refers to a collection of symptoms affecting multiple systems in the body. The most common causes of anaphylaxis in children include allergies to the following:

- Food: (Most commonly peanuts, tree nuts, milk, dairy products, soy wheat, fish and shellfish.)
- Insect stings
- Medications
- Latex

Rising Tide Charter Public School has developed guidelines applicable to students at risk for anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis can occur immediately or up to two hours following allergen exposure. In about a third of anaphylactic reactions, the initial symptoms are followed by a delayed wave of symptoms two to four hours later.

Rising Tide Charter Public School cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy related event at school. This policy has been created to reduce the risk of exposure. Rising Tide Charter Public School is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students with life threatening allergies by taking preventative measures and having emergency response procedures in place. The management of a Life Threatening Allergy (LTA) takes a multidisciplinary approach. Rising Tide Charter Public School will work in conjunction with parents, students and physicians to minimize risks and to provide a safe educational environment for all students. The focus on allergy management will be prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response. We will assist students to assume more individual responsibility for their health and safety as they mature and optimize full participation in educational programs and school sponsored activities.

1. Education: At the beginning of the school year, all school personnel will be required to complete training in emergency management. School Nurses will educate staff members regarding recognition of life threatening allergic reactions and the District's emergency

medical response procedures. Staff will be trained on how to administer an EpiPen when appropriate.

2. Health Plan: Each student with an allergy will have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) or an Emergency Health Care Plan that will address the management of the student's life-threatening allergy
3. Allergy safe areas– A nut free table will be available in the lunchroom that students can sit at if they choose to.
4. Classroom exposure- All classrooms are intended to be nut free. If a student has an allergy aside from nuts, the teacher and class will be made aware and take appropriate measures to ensure the allergen is not present in the class. Special attention is made at different times throughout the year to remind teachers and students if someone in the classroom has a nut or other specific allergy.
5. Kitchen- Food service staff use nut free products.
6. Epinephrine- EpiPen orders and plans need to be on file with the school nurse. EpiPens will be left in the health office with the student's name, grade and allergy listed. With a parent and medical provider's permission, students may carry their own EpiPen on them in their backpack/bag. We always recommend leaving an extra EpiPen in the health office just in case.
7. Field trips- If there is no school nurse on the field trip, there will be a trained staff member designed by the school nurse to monitor the student with the life-threatening allergy. If the student has an EpiPen that is kept with the school nurse, that will be packed and sent with their teacher on the field trip. If the student carries their own EpiPen and does not keep one in the health office, they will be expected to bring their EpiPen with them on the field trip.
8. Emergency Response- All staff with students that have life-threatening allergies will have means of communication in the case of an emergency. The school nurse or another crisis response team member will be able to be reached by phone or walkie at any time. All staff have been trained to administer epinephrine in accordance with 105 CMR 210.00. EMS will be called in the event of an administration of epinephrine as well and the student's family.

The Nurse Leader is responsible for maintaining the current application with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the delegation of administration of epinephrine by auto-injector to the student with diagnosed life threatening allergic conditions, consistent with 105 CMR 210.00.