

UPPER BUCKS COUNTY AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES

ADOPTED: April 16, 2009

REVISED:

210.2. SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES	
1. Purpose	The Joint Operating Committee is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff with the understanding that the career and technical school cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy-related event while at school. The purpose of this policy shall be to address the needs of students with severe food allergies, while respecting the rights of all individuals.
2. Definitions	<p>Food Allergy - a food allergy is any reaction to an otherwise harmless food or food component that involves the body's immune system. A reaction occurs when the body's immune system responds abnormally to the protein or proteins in that particular food. The body reacts by flooding the system with histamines and other chemicals to fight off what is perceived as an invader in the body. Reactions to food or food ingredients that do not involve the immune system are called food intolerance or sensitivities.</p> <p>Food Intolerance - food intolerance is a metabolic disorder and does not involve the immune system. Lactose intolerance is one example of food intolerance. A person with lactose intolerance lacks an enzyme that is needed to digest milk sugar. When the person eats milk products, symptoms such as gas, bloating, and abdominal pain may occur.</p> <p>Anaphylaxis - an exaggerated, life-threatening hypersensitive reaction to a previously encountered allergen.</p> <p>Emergency Self-Administration - the self-administration of preapproved medication to avoid immediate and substantial risk to health, including but not limited to Benadryl, self-administration of an EpiPen, EpiPen Jr., or an inhaler.</p> <p>Common Food Allergens - common foods that are associated with food allergies are milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat and soy.</p>
3. Authority	Regardless of the allergy, the career and technical school shall not support a complete ban of specific or specified foods that may contribute to the student's allergy.

4. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>The Joint Operating Committed authorizes the Administrative Director or his/her designee to implement the following guidelines related to severe food allergies to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff, while respecting the rights of all individuals.</p>
5. Guidelines	<p>The most important aspect of the management of students with life-threatening allergies is avoidance.</p> <p>For students with food allergies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students should not share or trade food or eating utensils with others.2. Students with food allergies may eat in the cafeteria but it is safest to pack and eat lunches from home.3. Parents/Guardians of students with severe allergies shall be referred to the Food Service Director for information on ingredients of foods served in the cafeterias so that parents/guardians may determine which foods are safe for their children to consume.4. It is recommended that students with food allergies have snacks sent from home to eat in the event of a school party or special occasion. Snacks and treats brought in by others should not be eaten by students with allergies until the food is checked by his/her parents/guardians.5. All students should wash hands before and after eating.6. An allergen-free table shall be made available in the cafeteria when necessary. (The career and technical school cannot guarantee the absence of specific foods.)7. Cafeteria tables shall be cleaned after each lunch period.8. Food consumption shall not be allowed on school buses unless necessary (e.g., a student with diabetes). <p>For students with severe allergies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The parent/guardian shall provide the school with a completed Allergy Action Plan that includes parental permission and a physician order annually on or before the first day of school.2. The parent/guardian shall complete an allergy history form and shall notify the school nurse of any changes in the student's health.

3. The parent/guardian shall provide the school with the necessary medications, such as Benadryl or an EpiPen, to be used in the event of a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.
4. For safety reasons, the student may be excluded from school if the proper information and medication are not obtained from the parent/guardian as requested.
5. Students shall be permitted to carry and self-administer an Epi-Pen if this permission is granted provided if the student is deemed responsible by the parent/guardian, physician, and school authorities and demonstrates with parent/guardian notification and physician clearance the knowledge and ability to self-administer. Permission to carry the EpiPen may be rescinded if the student acts irresponsibly in caring for the EpiPen.
6. At least three (3) staff members at each school shall be trained to respond to an allergy emergency in the Health Care Services Specialist absence, including the proper use and administration of an EpiPen.
7. Necessary medications, including EpiPens, shall be taken on field trips.
8. Information and education regarding a student's allergy shall be shared with appropriate school personnel.
9. Classmates shall receive education about the allergy as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Health Care Services Specialist in collaboration with the parents/guardians.
10. Teasing, bullying, or harassing of a student with a known allergy by other students shall not be tolerated.
11. In an emergency, school personnel shall accompany the child to the hospital, if possible.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

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