

POLICY

Board of Education Bernards Township

**File Code: 5331
ANAPHYLAXIS TO FOOD AND OTHER SUBSTANCES**

The Board of Education disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of any illness, including any allergies, of any pupil. At the same time, the Board recognizes a pupil's health and safety may be contingent upon timely administration of medication duly prescribed by a physician. Any administration of medications to pupils in school will be in accordance with Policy No. 5330 and applicable State laws.

The Board recognizes pupils may have anaphylaxis to certain foods and other substances. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe, potentially fatal, systemic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body (such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system). Symptoms can occur within minutes to hours after contact with the allergy-causing substance and these reactions can be mild to life-threatening.

Therefore, it is very important the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of pupils with anaphylaxis to food and other substances inform the school nurse in the event the pupil may have an anaphylactic reaction while in school. The school nurse will notify those school staff members who may interact with the pupil.

The Board will permit the self-administration of medication for a pupil with anaphylaxis to food and other substances pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 through N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6 and Policy No. 5330. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of a pupil with anaphylaxis to food and other substances must provide the school nurse with written authorization for the emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled single dose auto-injector mechanism for the pupil in accordance with Policy No. 5330.

The building principal and the school nurse will take precautions to ensure the safety of pupils with anaphylaxis to food and other substances. Specifically, teachers will be inserviced at the start of each school year in allergies and anaphylaxis. The school nurse will notify those staff members of students with known allergies.

Based on the school cafeteria's use of government commodity foods and beverages and donations of food and beverages by parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and organizations, the district may not know the exact ingredients used in the preparation of all food and beverage items served within the school lunch program, by parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and/or by school organizations. Therefore, the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the pupil with anaphylaxis to food should be responsible for the pupil's purchase and consumption of any food products sold or provided by the school and/or by any school-related organizations that may cause an anaphylactic reaction.

There will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip, and/or classroom celebration. Because the ingredients of these food products may be unknown to the food preparation person and/or server, a pupil with anaphylaxis to food should not consume any food

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products that he/she is unsure of the ingredients. The teacher will provide the pupil with advance notice of the classroom experience, field trip, and/or classroom celebration in order for the pupil to bring a food or beverage from their home so he/she may participate in the activity.

When a parent/legal guardian informs the school nurse the pupil may have an anaphylactic reaction to substances other than food while in school, the building principal will work with school staff to determine if these substances are on school grounds. Appropriate steps will be taken to minimize the pupil's exposure to those substances on school grounds.

The school nurse will provide an allergy and anaphylaxis in-service at the start of each school year to staff in order for school staff to understand food allergies, recognize symptoms, know what to do in an emergency situation, and will work with other school staff to eliminate or substitute the use of food allergens in the educational/instructional tools and materials, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.

When applicable, the school nurse will train a staff member as a Nurse Delegate in the administration of a pre-filled single dose auto-injector mechanism containing epinephrine as per N.J.S.A 18A:40-12.6. The task shall be delegated to a designee, for each specific task, for each pupil. However, the delegate may be trained as a delegate for more than one student or a student may have more than one delegate. The above would be utilized when a pupil is unable to self-administer a pre-filled single dose auto-injector mechanism containing epinephrine or if the nurse is unable to attend a school trip and/or parent is unable to attend.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 through 18A:40-12.6

ADOPTED: December 14, 2009