

# Policy

## Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

### **5000 Pupils**

#### **5331 Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools**

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 allergies to certain foods and other substances and may be at risk for anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe, systemic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body (such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system). Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that may be rapid in onset and may cause death. Policy 5331 has been developed in accordance with the Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening food Allergies in Schools Developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

An Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) and an Individualized Emergency Healthcare Plan (IEHP) will be developed for each pupil at risk for a life-threatening allergic reaction. Self-administration of medication, the placement and the accessibility of epinephrine, and the recruitment and training of designees who volunteer to administer epinephrine during school and at school sponsored functions when the school nurse or designee is not available shall be in accordance with NJSA 18A:40-12 and Board Policy and Regulation 5330. School Staff will be appropriately trained by the school nurse or designee to understand the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur.

The school district will develop and implement appropriate strategies and prevention measures for the reduction of risk of exposure to food allergies throughout the school day, during before and after school programs, at all school-sponsored activities, in the cafeteria, or wherever food is present.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), staff and pupils to prevent allergic reactions and during allergic reactions are outlined in Regulation 5331.

Every incident involving a life-threatening allergic reaction and/or whenever epinephrine is administered throughout the school day, during before and after school programs, and/or at all school-sponsored activities shall be reported to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee shall be responsible to notify emergency responders, the Principal or designee, the school physician, and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of Education after every incident including a life-threatening allergic reaction or whenever epinephrine is administered by the school nurse or designee. In addition, in accordance with the

provisions of NJSA 18A:40-12.5.e(3), the school nurse or designee shall arrange for the transportation of a pupil to the hospital emergency room by emergency services personnel after the administration of epinephrine, even if the pupil's symptoms appear to have resolved.

There will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip and/or 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 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 they may participate in the activity.

When a parent/legal guardian informs the Building Principal and 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. The Building Principal will inform and work with the parent/legal guardian and the pupil to avoid the pupil's exposure to these substances if present on school grounds.

The Director of Human Resources or designee will provide training to school 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 allergic pupil's meals, educational/instructional tools and materials, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.

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

Adopted: 12/09/2008

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