

## POLICY 380 ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a sudden and severe allergic reaction that requires immediate medical emergency intervention; it can be fatal.

The Board of Education recognizes that it has a duty of care to students who are at risk from life-threatening allergic reactions while under school supervision. The Board also recognizes that this responsibility is shared among the students, parents/guardians/caregivers, the entire school community, and health care providers.

The purpose of this policy is to minimize the risk to students with severe allergies to potentially life-threatening allergens without depriving the severely allergic student of normal peer interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other students in the school.

This policy is designed to ensure that students at risk are identified, strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure, and staff and key volunteers are trained to respond in an emergency situation.

While the Board of Education cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, the Board will take reasonable steps to provide an allergy-safe and allergy-aware environment for students with life-threatening allergies.

## Guidelines

All schools in SD83 must implement the steps outlined in District procedures on allergies and anaphylaxis, which include:

1. a process for identifying anaphylactic students;
2. a process for keeping a record with information relating to the specific allergies for each identified anaphylactic student to form part of the student's Permanent Student Record;
3. a process for establishing an emergency procedure plan, to be reviewed annually, for each identified anaphylactic student to form part of the student's student record;
4. an education plan for anaphylactic students and their parents to encourage the use by anaphylactic students of Medic-Alert identification;
5. procedures for storage and administering medications, including procedures for obtaining preauthorization<sup>1</sup> for employees to administer medication to an anaphylactic student<sup>2</sup>; and,
6. a process for principals to monitor and report information about anaphylactic incidents to the Board in aggregate form.

<sup>1</sup> Must be obtained from both the student's physician and the student's parents

<sup>2</sup> For students who have not been identified as anaphylactic, the standard emergency procedure is to call emergency medical care (911 where available) – school staff should not administer medication to unidentified students.

References: Anaphylaxis Protection Order, BC Ministry of Education and Child Care Governance, Legislation and Workforce Branch  
Date Adopted:  
Date Amended: