

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regulations 5450(a) STUDENTS WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES

The Arlington Central School District is committed to providing a safe environment in and around school buildings and during school activities for students who have severe allergies. “Severe Allergies” are defined as those students who have a history of severe, life-threatening allergic reactions to certain types of food products, bee stings, and/or other substances in the environment. These Regulations have been established to foster an environment that will prevent and/or minimize allergic incidents to the extent feasible and to ensure that prompt, appropriate care will be given to students who have a severe allergic reaction.

Precautionary Medications, Supplies, Training

Proactive precautionary measures will be taken in all schools that include the following:

1. Appropriate supply of Epi-pens for emergency use
2. Personnel trained in use of Epi-pen and emergency procedures.
3. Accessibility to emergency medication
4. Assure appropriate cleaning procedures in cafeterias and classrooms to remove food or other potential allergens to the extent possible.

Staff Education and Training

All school personnel, including bus drivers, who may have responsibility for students at a given time will be instructed by the school nurse, school physician, or a licensed medical professional on the use of an Epi-pen and the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction. The training session shall take place early in the school year and as needed. In the case of an anaphylactic allergic reaction, staff will be instructed to use the Epi-pen and not wait for the nurse or EMTs.

Parent Notification to the School

Information regarding a student’s allergies must be provided by the student’s parents/guardians to the school nurse in detail from the child’s physician or licensed medical care provider. The information should include the type of allergies, a description of the child’s past reactions, including triggers and warning signs, and the care to be provided in the case of a reaction. Additional information may be provided by the student’s parents/guardians, but it must be accompanied by the physician’s documentation.

Parents of students with severe allergies are expected to have their child wear a Medi-Alert bracelet or medallion.

Teacher and Substitute Teacher Notification

Information, including the type of allergies and the student's reaction to the allergens, will be distributed by the school nurse to the student's teachers. Substitute teachers' information folders must have clear and easily identifiable information about each student with a severe allergy to food or other allergens.

Emergency Medication

The student's parents/guardians shall provide an order from their licensed provider or physician for an Epi-pen auto injector to be renewed each year. Middle school and high school students are expected to have an order to self administer and carry their medication; however, a student's ability to self administer his/her medication is based on developmental readiness regardless of age. Whenever possible, the school nurse will oversee the administration, or with students authorized to "self-administer" to monitor the use, of the emergency medication. Non-medical school personnel may administer an Epi-pen in an emergency when a severe allergic reaction occurs and the nurse is not immediately available.

Allergic Reactions in School

When a severe allergic reaction not requiring administration of epinephrine occurs in school, the parent/guardian will be requested to pick up the student. The student will remain in the nurse's office until picked up by an adult. Whenever epinephrine is administered, 911 must be called immediately and advised that this is an anaphylactic reaction.

Food Safety for the Classroom

Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide two-day notification to the classroom teacher prior to sending food into the classroom in order to give the parents of the child with severe food allergies the option of sending a substitute food for their child. Parents of a child with severe food allergies are encouraged to provide the teacher with a supply of safe food that can be kept in the classroom or in a refrigerator/freezer at school. This will allow the teacher to provide an appropriate alternative food to the severely allergic student when necessary.

Teachers incorporating food into the curriculum are required to contact the parent/guardian of a food allergic student to discuss alternatives in order for the student to be included in all aspects of the curriculum. Coaches and activities advisors who provide food to students should contact the parent/guardian of a food allergic student to discuss options.

Food Selection in the Cafeteria

Parents of food allergic students will be requested to provide their lunch or to contact the Director of Food Service for Arlington Central School District in order to assist the students in making a safe selection.

The nurse's office will provide the Food Service Department with a list of students with documented severe food allergies at the beginning of each school year and update the list as needed. This information can then be included as part of the student's PIN, with up to 16 letters of information.

Efforts should be made to include some selections of food items in vending machines that can be safely purchased by food allergic students.

Upon request, a table where specific food-allergy inducing products will not be permitted will be made available in the cafeteria.

Transportation

The nurse's office will forward the names of students with emergency medication for severe allergies to the transportation department at the beginning of each school year and update the list as needed. This list will specify if the student is carrying his/her own medication or if he/she is not. Information about students with severe allergies will be included on the run lists, and this list will be easily accessible when a driver calls in with an emergency. The parent/guardian of a student with emergency medication will be requested to introduce the student to the bus driver. The bus driver can consult with the school nurse to be informed about the nature of the allergy, the symptoms to watch for, and the care to be provided, including the use of an Epi-pen, in case of an allergic reaction. Transportation personnel should be instructed to call 911 if a student appears to be having a severe allergic reaction.

Eating on the buses will be discouraged. Food will not be distributed by the bus drivers to students.

Field Trips

Field trip permission forms will include a section for updated information regarding the student's allergy from the parents/guardians. The nurse's office is responsible for ensuring that the student's emergency medication is given to the student's teacher with appropriate instruction. If an alternate school staff member is then given responsibility for that student, he/she needs to be instructed on the use of the emergency medication. Students who have self administer orders and carry their emergency medication are responsible to have the medication with them for field trips.

School Sponsored After School Activities and Summer Programs

After school activities may pose particular concerns for students with severe allergies. The student's parents/guardians must assume primary responsibility for informing activity advisors about their child's condition. The advisor should consult with the school nurse to be informed about the nature of the allergy, the symptoms to watch for, and the care to be provided, including the use of an Epi-pen, in case of an allergic reaction. Advisors should be instructed to call 911 if a student appears to be having a severe allergic reaction.

Summer Programs: The same standards that are followed during the regular school year are to be applied to summer programs (i.e. medical forms completed, medication on-site, etc.).

Note: These guidelines apply only to school sponsored activities.

*Adopted in Accordance
With Superintendent Approval:
March 14, 2006*