

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Mansfield Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. Recognizing the increasing prevalence of life-threatening allergies (LTAs) among school populations, the Mansfield Public Schools will work in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians to minimize risks and to provide a safe educational environment for all students. The focus of allergy management will be prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response. This policy and plan will assist students to assume more individual responsibility for their health and safety as they mature and optimize full participation in educational programs and school sponsored activities.

Protecting a student from exposure to offending allergens is the most important way to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis. Most anaphylactic reactions occur when a child is accidentally exposed to a substance to which he/she is allergic, such as foods, medicines, insects, or latex.

The Mansfield Public Schools will set age-appropriate plans/guidelines for students and schools within the Mansfield system that minimizes the risk for children with life-threatening allergies to be exposed to offending allergens that may trigger a life-threatening reaction. Such guidelines will include:

- Building-based general medical emergency plans;
- Life-threatening allergy emergency plans;
- Individual healthcare plans for all students diagnosed with LTA;
- Appropriate training of staff;
- Availability on site of medical equipment for quick response to life-threatening allergic reactions;
- And such other guidelines that will ensure that students with LTA can participate fully in school activities without undue fear of harm from exposure to life-threatening allergens.

Specific building-based guidelines/actions will take into account the health needs and well-being of all children without discrimination or isolation of any child. No student will be excluded from school activities based solely on his/her allergies. In order to assist children with LTA to assume more individual responsibility for maintaining their safety as they grow, these guidelines will shift as children advance through the primary grades and through secondary school.

Training and Education

Education and open and informative communication are vital for the creation of an environment with reduced risks for all students and their families.

The Mansfield Public Schools will provide annual district-wide mandatory in-service training and education on reducing life-threatening allergy risks, recognizing allergy

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symptoms, and emergency procedures for appropriate staff to include the following topics:

- A description/definition of severe allergies and a discussion of the most common allergic reactions;
- The signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis;
- The correct use of epinephrine;
- Specifics steps to follow in the event of an emergency.

Implementation

The Superintendent and district staff will:

- Maintain the health and protect the safety of children who have life-threatening allergies.
- Review and update as needed the system-wide emergency plan for addressing life-threatening allergic reactions.
- Define a process for identifying, managing, and ensuring continuity of care for students with life-threatening allergies.
- Identify interventions and develop individual health care plans for students with life-threatening allergies that are based on medically accurate information and evidenced based practices.
- Follow all applicable federal laws, including ADA, Section 504, and FERPA, as well as all state laws and district policies and procedures that may apply.

The Superintendent or designee will review and update this policy and plan every three years.

Notice

Notice of this policy and plan will appear in all district publications that discuss student health and safety, including but not limited to student handbooks and the Mansfield Public Schools website.

REVISED: December 8, 2020
REVIEWED: November 2017
ADOPTED: December 15, 2015

CROSS REF: ADF and ADF-R Wellness Policy and Procedures
EBC, School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Emergency Response Plans

LEGAL REF: MA Department of Public Health 105 CMR 210.100

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OTHER REF: Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
 <http://www.foodallergy.org>
 Managing Life Threatening Allergies in Schools, DESE and
 MDPH 2002
 *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies In Schools and
 Early Care and Education Programs*, The Centers for Disease
 Control, 2013