

Allergies Policy Including Nut and Food Allergy

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Veritas Multi Academy Trust are aware that children and adults in schools may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Aim:

The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy induced anaphylaxis whilst at school.

Definitions:

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Epipen - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimized Risk Environment - An environment where risk management practices (e.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Care Plan - A detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epipen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management:

General

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's health care plans to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- The school will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each calendar year.
- Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the school.
- For students with an allergic condition, the school requires parents / guardians to provide written advice from a doctor (GP), which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication.
- The School Leader will ensure that a Health Care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy.
- Teachers and teacher assistants of those students and key staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- Individual Healthcare Plans to be shared with relevant staff.
- Where students with known allergies are participating in school excursions, the risk assessments must include relevant risks regarding pupil's allergies.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the school.

Medical Information (Epipens)

Where Epipens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parent/ Carer's are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the Epipens.
- The Epipens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the School Leader.

Parent/ Carer's role:

Parents/ Carers are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the school.

Parents are to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an Epipen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a Health Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents.
- It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the school with up to date medication / equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.

- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into school are provided by each child's Parent.
- It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

Staff's role:

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's Pupil Information Form states that they have an allergy then a Health Care Plan is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions. A risk assessment should be carried and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the child's Health Care Plan.
- Upon determining that a child attending school has a severe allergy, all staff concerned will be given knowledge and awareness of child's needs by a designated member of staff.
- All staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the school Leader and where any medication is stored.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snacks are monitored by staff and are peanut, nut free and other allergens depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
- However staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- The school will follow the child's Individual Health Care Plan
- We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999 / 112
- If parents have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.

Role of other parents

- Snacks and lunches brought to the school by other parents should be peanut and nut free.
- The school will ensure that parents are regularly reminded and will monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snack.