

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

Policy # 101

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY*

Medway Public Schools recognizes the increasing prevalence of student food allergies and the life-threatening nature of allergies for many students. The Administration of the Medway Public Schools shall ensure compliance with this policy and implementation of protocols and procedures to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to students, to educate all members of the school community, and to plan for the individual needs of students with life-threatening food allergies.

Further, this policy, protocols, and procedures will aim to assist students with assuming more individual responsibility for their health and safety as they grow older, and to ensure full participation in their educational programs and school sponsored activities. The school day is defined as the hours of the day that students must attend their education program in school. After school hours include Medway Public Schools sponsored activities, clubs, athletics, community education programs, and parent or community sponsored events.

Protocols and procedures for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies (LTA) in the Medway Public Schools will be reviewed annually and modified as appropriate, and will include the following:

- 1) District-wide and building-based education and training is offered annually to school personnel about the management of student allergies, recognition of signs of an allergic reaction, activation of the emergency response plan, and the administration of epinephrine via auto injector.
- 2) For students with a known allergy an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) including accommodations for prevention, management and emergency response is developed for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy, and distributed before the beginning of the school year.

During the school year, upon receipt of documentation about a life-threatening allergy, the school nurse will notify teachers of the student without delay, and the IHCP will be distributed to the student's teachers within one week of receipt by the school nurse.

- 3) Non-curriculum related classroom-based celebrations and parties are food free.

4) Inclusion of food for curriculum instruction and related activities, special grade-wide events, or field trips requires strict adherence to the Management of Life-Threatening Allergy Administrative Regulation and consultation with the nurse and approval of the principal.

5) The use of food as a reward or incentive during the school day is prohibited, except as indicated in a child's Individualized Education Program.

6) School personnel will be sure to educate classmates, assure an environment free from bullying, threats, and stigmatization (in accordance with Medway Public Schools Anti-Bullying Policy #84, Medway Public Schools Anti-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy #89,) and provide safeguards so that students with LTA are not isolated.

7) Sales of competitive food or beverages (including bake sales), not sold/provided via School Breakfast or Lunch Programs, are not permitted during the school day nor beyond school hours in pre-K through grade four.

Sales of competitive food or beverages (including bake sales), not sold/provided via School Breakfast or Lunch Programs, are not permitted during the school day, but are permitted beyond school hours, in grades five-twelve.

8) Medway Public Schools staff employed by Medway Public Schools to supervise and/or coach students who are participating as members of school-sponsored athletic teams, clubs, and other extracurricular activities beyond the school day are responsible for implementing the applicable portions of the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures for the management of students with LTA while the students are under the staff's supervision.

8) Unless otherwise required by law, Medway Public Schools staff is not responsible for implementing the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures during (1) school sponsored events beyond the school day that are open to the public (e.g. school athletic contests, plays, or ceremonies) or (2) programs or events on Medway Public Schools property that are sponsored by any parent, community, and private groups.

References

- Medway Public Schools Policies: Wellness Policy (#69), Administering Medicine to Students (#93), Anti-Bullying (#84) •Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network <http://www.foodallergy.org>
- Medway Public School Administrative Regulations.
- Managing Life Threatening Allergies in Schools. Massachusetts Department of Education and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2002
- Young, Michael, 2006. The Peanut Allergy Answer Book (2nd Ed). Gloucester, MA: Fair winds Press, pg 118-119

Legal References

- 105 CMR 210.000: The Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private School
- Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71: Section 54B. Administration of medications in school settings; regulation
- American with Disabilities Act and Section 504

*(adapted from Needham Public Schools, Life-Threatening Allergy Policy, adopted 12/7/2010)

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