



## The Co-operative Nursery School of Almonte

### **Anaphylaxis Policy**

At times we have children who are at risk for potentially life-threatening allergies. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction caused by foods, insect bites, latex or other substances. Our Anaphylaxis policy is designed to ensure that children at risk are identified, strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure and staff is trained in emergency situations.

Symptoms can vary for different people, and can be different from one reaction to the next, including:

\*Skin: hives, swelling, itching, warmth, redness, rash, breathing (respiratory): coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest pain/tightness, throat tightness/swelling, hoarse voice, nasal congestion or hay fever-like symptoms (runny nose and watery eyes, sneezing), trouble swallowing, stomach (gastrointestinal): nausea, pain/cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, heart (cardiovascular): pale/blue colour, weak pulse, passing out, dizzy/lightheaded, shock

\*Other: anxiety, feeling of “impending doom”, headache, uterine cramps, metallic taste in mouth

(Source: <http://foodallergycanada.ca/about-allergies/anaphylaxis/>)

### **Parent/Guardian Responsibility**

1. Inform the Director and Staff of their child’s allergy/allergies.
2. Consent to inform others involved with the child at the school (staff and volunteers) of the allergy/allergies; for staff and volunteers who have signed off on child specific training to administer medications; to post information regarding the child’s medical condition within the school.
3. Provide a completed Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan to the Director and Staff before the child attends the school. This plan will include a photograph, descriptions of the child’s allergy/allergies, emergency procedure, contact information and consent to administer medication. This plan will be posted in all 3 rooms of the Nursery School.
4. Ensure that an Epi-Pen is provided to the school and is replaced prior to an expiration date. If a parent/caregiver does not provide an Epi-Pen, or fails to replace an expired Epi-Pen, admission in the program will be suspended until an Epi-Pen has been provided or replaced.
5. Advise the school in writing if their child has out grown any allergy/allergies or no longer requires an epinephrine auto-injector. A note from the child’s allergist or physician will also be required.

## **Emergency Protocol- Anaphylaxis**

During an Emergency where a severe allergic reaction has been identified a trained staff will remain with the child to:

1. Check the scene for any hazards
2. Send another adult to CALL 911
3. Administer child's Epi-Pen and take note of time medication was given
4. Keep the child comfortable until medical help arrives, monitor ABC's and be prepared to administer a second Epi-Pen if the reaction worsens again before medical help arrives.
5. The child care centre will communicate with the Ministry of Education by reporting serious occurrences where an anaphylactic reaction occurs in accordance with the established serious occurrence policy and procedures.

## **Communication Plan**

The director or teaching staff will contact the child's parent/guardian or emergency contact by telephone in the event of a severe allergic reaction immediately after 911 has been called.

## **Development of Individualized Plans and Emergency Procedures for Each Child with an Anaphylactic Allergy who Receives Child Care**

A completed Anaphylactic Form including a picture of the child, list of all allergies, signs and symptoms, parents name, who to contact in an emergency and signed by the child's physician will be posted in all rooms that the child may be in throughout the program.

## **Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Anaphylactic Allergens**

### **Creating an Allergen Safe Environment**

It will be the goal of the school to create a safe and healthy environment for all children enrolled in the program. Every effort will be made to minimize the allergens that could potentially cause a fatal reaction but recognizes that complete elimination of allergens is not a guarantee.

1. Parents will be informed of all food allergies in the school and an allergy list will be posted in each room
2. Ways to reduce exposure:
  - a. Washing hands and mouth before entering program.
  - b. Do not share food, utensils or containers.
  - c. Place food on a plate rather than direct contact with surface.
  - d. Properly clean surfaces and dispose of food items after snack.
  - e. Adult supervision while eating.
  - f. Read food labels- Our School is a "NUT FREE SCHOOL" (we will not serve "may contain") g. Parents/Guardians who have a child with the allergen may be asked to bring in a suitable snack for their child
  - h. All participants in the Nursery School will be advised of life threatening allergies.

## **Anaphylactic Training**

1. When a child with an anaphylactic allergy is enrolled in the school there will be training provided at our Fall Open House for all staff and parent volunteers of children registered for the current year by the parent/guardian of the child. If for some reason parent volunteers are unable to make the Fall Open House, the parent/guardian of the child with the anaphylactic allergy at the Nursery School will set another date/time go through procedures with parent volunteers or any new parents/volunteers/staff that come into the program throughout the school year to complete the training.
2. Training will be a review of the child's individual plan, which will include signs and symptoms.
3. Staff and parent volunteers will receive a demonstration on how the Epi-pen is administered. Upon completion of training all staff and parent volunteers must sign and date the anaphylactic policy and procedures individualized plan before commencing in the program.
4. Training will occur at least annually and at any time a change has been made in the individual plan, policies or procedures. All training and reviews will be document with a signature and dated.

## **Epinephrine Auto-Injectors**

Auto injectors will be stored at the Nursery School out of reach of children inside the filing cabinet, in the top left-hand corner. The Auto-Injector will be labeled with the child's name. For field trips the auto-injector will be brought along, unless the parent advises not to because they are accompanying the child and carrying one with them.

In the situation that the Auto injector, is out dated and can not be replaced due to manufactory delays and shortages, a letter from the child's physician will be needed. The same protocol for Individual Anaphylactic Plan will be followed. Health Canada advises if a person is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction and only an expired auto-injector is available, use the expired product and immediately contact 911.

## **Confidentiality**

Information about a child's allergies and medical needs will be treated confidentially and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the child, except when information must be disclosed for implementing the procedures in this policy and for legal reasons (e.g. to the Ministry of Education, College of Early Childhood Educators, law enforcement authorities or a Children's Aid Society).

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