

ANAPHYLAXIS TO FOOD AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

The Long Hill Township Board of Education (BOE) disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of any illness, including allergies, of any pupil. At the same time, the BOE recognizes a pupil's health and safety may be contingent upon the timely administration of medication duly prescribed by a physician. Any administration of medication to pupils in school will be in accordance with Policy No. 5141.21 and applicable state laws.

The BOE recognizes pupils may have anaphylaxis to certain foods and other substances. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe, potentially fatal, systemic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body (such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system). Symptoms can occur within minutes to hours after contact with the allergy-causing substance and these reactions can be mild to life-threatening. Therefore, it is very important the parent(s)/guardian(s) of pupils with anaphylaxis to food and other substances inform the school principal and school nurse in the event the pupil may have an anaphylactic reaction while in school. The principal and the nurse will notify those school staff members who may interact with the pupil.

The BOE will permit the self-administration of medication for a pupil with anaphylaxis to food or other substances pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 through N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6 and Policy No. 5141.21. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a pupil with anaphylaxis to food and other substances must provide the Chief School Administrator (CSA) with written authorization for the emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled single dose auto-injector mechanism for the pupil in accordance with Policy No. 5141.21.

The Principal and school nurse will take precautions to ensure the safety of pupils with anaphylaxis to food and other substances. Specifically, the teachers will be notified at the start of each school year during Anaphylaxis Training that they should check the student class list with the nurse for any food and other allergies prior to any food function in the classroom.

Based on the sale and/or donations of food and beverages by parent(s)/guardian(s) and organizations, the district may not know the exact ingredients used in the preparation of

all food and beverage items served within the school lunch program, by parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or by school organizations. Therefore, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or the pupil with anaphylaxis to certain food are responsible for the pupil's purchase and consumption of any food product(s) sold or provided by the school and/or by any school related organizations that may cause anaphylactic reaction. Upon request of a parent(s)/guardian(s) of a pupil with anaphylaxis to certain food, the principal, working with the school nurse, will accommodate a pupil with anaphylaxis to food and other substances by offering food substitutions that are free of the pupil's food allergy. There will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip and/or classroom celebration. Because the ingredients of these food products may be unknown to the food preparation person and/or server, a pupil with anaphylaxis to certain food should not consume any food products if he/she is unsure of the ingredients. The teacher will provide the pupil advance notice of the classroom experience, field trip and/or classroom celebration in order for the pupil to be able to bring a safe food or beverage from home so they may participate in the activity.

When a parent(s)/guardian(s) informs the principal and the school nurse that the pupil may have an anaphylactic reaction to substances other than food while in school, the principal will work with the school nurse to determine if these substances are on school grounds. The principal will inform and work with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pupil to avoid the pupil's exposure to these substances if they are present.

The school nurse will provide Anaphylactic Training at the start of each school year to school staff. The training will encompass lessons to allow staff to understand food and other substance allergies, recognize symptoms of allergic reactions, and know what to do in an emergency situation. The school nurse will work with other school staff to eliminate or substitute the use of food and other substance allergens in the allergic pupil's food, educational/instructional tools and materials, arts and crafts projects, or incentives. When applicable, the school nurse will train a staff member as a Nurse Delegate in the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector as per N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3-12.6. The school nurse shall recruit and train school employees to administer epinephrine in an emergency, when the school nurse or Nurse Delegate is not present. Only the auto-injector portion of the apparatus may be delegated. Any manual administration of epinephrine cannot be delegated and must be administered by the school nurse or other licensed medical professionals. A delegate may assist a student who has permission to self-administer medication.

As per Policy 5141.21 (Administering Medication), epinephrine must be stored in a secure, but unlocked location which is easily accessible to the certified school nurse and designee(s), to ensure prompt availability in the event of an allergic reaction at a school

Anaphylaxis to Food and Other Substances

5141.22

or school-sponsored function. A school nurse or designee shall be available on site at the school and at school-sponsored functions in the event of an allergic reaction by an attending pupil.

Note: In some circumstances, a pupil may have authorization to carry an epi-pen with them per the stipulation noted in Policy 5141.21 (Administering Medication).

Following the administration of epinephrine, the district shall ensure transportation of the student to a hospital emergency room by emergency services personnel.

First reading: February 9, 2009

Second reading: March 9, 2009

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1	Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries, terms; rules
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3.2 et seq.	Medical and Nursing Personnel
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4	Examination for physical defects and screening of hearing of pupils
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-7	Exclusion of pupils who are ill
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 through -12.4	Self-administration of medication by pupil; conditions
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5	Policy for emergency administration of epinephrine to public school pupils
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6	Administration of epinephrine; primary responsibility; parental consent
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.7	Nebulizer
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.8	Administration of asthma medication by school nurse through nebulizer; training; pupil asthma treatment plan
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.S.A. 45.11-23	Definitions
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1 et seq.	Programs to Support Student Development
See particularly: N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3, 4(a), -2.1,- 2.2,- 2.3, -2.4	

Bernards Township Education Association v. Bernards Township Board of Education, 1981 S.L.D. (9/29/81), aff'd State Board, 1982 S.L.D. 4/7/82, aff'd App. Div., unpublished opinion (A-4211-81T3, 5/18/83)

Communications Workers of America, Local 1033, On behalf of Karen Norton, Barbara Woolston, Mary Ellen Schoen et a. v. New Jersey State Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, State Board Docket #52-91.

Policy Advisory #1 on N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 et seq. Self-Administration of Medication By a Pupil, New Jersey State Department of Education, June 5, 1995

Protocol and Implementation Plan for the Emergency Administration of Epinephrine by a Delegate Trained by the School Nurse, New Jersey State Department of Education, October, 1998.

P.L. 2007, c. 57 amends N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12 to encourage recruitment and training of additional school employees to administer epinephrine and the placement of a pupil's prescribed epinephrine in a secure but unlocked location easily accessible by the school nurse and designees to ensure prompt availability in the event of an allergic emergency at school or at a school-sponsored function. Two NJDOE documents give specific ideas and best practices to implement P.L. 2007, c. 57.

- A. Training Protocols for the Emergency Administration of Epinephrine(9/08)
- B. Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools (9/08)

Possible Cross References:

- *5131.6 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
- *5141 Health
- *5141.1 Accidents
- *5141.2 Illness
- *5141.3 Health examinations and immunizations
- 5141.5 AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Use in Case of Emergency
- 5141.21 Administering Medication
- *6153 Field trips

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.