

## 100.2 Anaphylaxis

### Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry

Updated: November 2023

#### Rationale

"Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and can possibly be fatal. Food and insect stings are the most common allergens to trigger such a reaction. The highest incidence of anaphylaxis occurs in school-aged children, making it essential that schools have an anaphylactic safety plan."<sup>1</sup>

#### Definitions

1. **Anaphylaxis** refers to a collection of severe allergies affecting multiple systems in the body. The most dangerous symptoms include breathing difficulties and a drop in blood pressure or shock, all of which are potentially fatal.
2. Common examples of potential **allergens** include certain foods, animals, plants, insect stings, or a wide range of other substances, including scented products, cleaners, chemicals, and other materials affecting air quality.

#### Policy

The Learningstorm Education Society recognizes that it has a duty of care to students who are at risk from life-threatening allergic reactions while under school supervision. The board also recognizes that this responsibility is shared among the students, parents, the school and health care providers.

The purpose of this policy is to minimize the risk to students with severe allergies to potentially life-threatening allergens without depriving the severely allergic student of normal peer interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other students in the school.

This policy ensures that students at risk are identified, strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure, and staff and key volunteers are trained to respond in an emergency situation.

While the board cannot guarantee a 100% allergen-free environment, the board will take reasonable steps to provide an allergy-safe, allergy-aware and supportive environment for students with life-threatening allergies.

The board authorizes the Principal and school staff to create and oversee implementation of all procedures and forms required under this Policy. The Principal is responsible for ensuring that schools create and maintain as safe, healthy, and inclusive an environment as possible for students who suffer from life-threatening allergies that can result in an anaphylactic reaction.

The school must implement the steps outlined in school procedures on anaphylaxis, which include:

1. a process for identifying anaphylactic students;
2. a process for keeping a record with information relating to the specific allergies for each identified anaphylactic student to form part of the student's Permanent Student Record;
3. a process for establishing an emergency procedure plan, to be reviewed annually, for each identified anaphylactic student to form part of the student's student record;
4. an education plan for anaphylactic students and their parents to encourage the use by anaphylactic students of Medic-Alert identification;
5. procedures for storage and administering medications, including procedures for obtaining preauthorization for employees to administer medication to an anaphylactic student; and
6. a process for the principal to monitor and report information about anaphylactic incidents to the board in aggregate form.

#### References:

- School Act s. 88 (1) and 168 (2) (t), Anaphylaxis Protection Order
- BC Ministry of Education Ministerial Order M232/07
- BC Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework (PDF revised 2013),  
[http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/healthyschools/anaphylaxis/bc\\_anaphylactic\\_child\\_safety.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/healthyschools/anaphylaxis/bc_anaphylactic_child_safety.pdf)
- Province of British Columbia Position on Anaphylaxis  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/school-health/anaphylaxis>