



## **Anaphylaxis Emergency Policy**

# **POLICY ON LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

An increasing number of school-aged children are being diagnosed with life-threatening related allergies. The most common allergens include, but are not limited to, milk, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, eggs, bees, latex and medications. It has been estimated that one to two percent of children is at risk and that percentage is increasing. Anaphylaxis (severe, allergic reaction culminating in cardiorespiratory collapse, if left untreated) is the most extreme presentation of these allergies. The Holton-Arms School strives to provide a safe and healthy environment for its students. In keeping with that mission, the School Nurse has drafted a policy regarding these allergies, especially focusing on food related allergies.

### 2. POLICY

- A. It is the responsibility of parents to notify the school of students with medically documented allergies. The school does not have a diagnostic responsibility. Parents provide the School Nurse with an Emergency Allergy Action Plan, and Authorization to Administer Prescription Medication form at the beginning of each school year (and notify the school of any changes to the status of their medical conditions). Parents and the School Nurse review and discuss the plan of care with the child's teachers prior to the beginning of school. In Lower School (LS) the EpiPens will be kept in the LS office and instructors taking field trips will collect the EpiPens for any field trips and carry them. In Middle and Upper School, it is preferred that the students carry their emergency medication on their person during the school day and during field trips. Permission for this needs to be indicated on the Authorization Medication Form under Self-Carry Permission.
- B. The school has available EpiPen's for non-identified anaphylaxis reactions in various locations around the school, in the infirmary, and in all field trip first aid kits.
- C. Students' names, grade, and their allergies are provided to all faculty, staff, and the kitchen. The original medical care plans are kept in the nurse's office. The Emergency Allergy Action Plan will be included in the substitute teacher packet. This also will be a part of off-campus event packets, such as for field trips and overnight trips.

- D. It is the goal of the School Nurse to educate students, parents, and staff about life-threatening allergies. Annual training for all staff includes how to recognize an allergic reaction, what to do if one occurs, and how to administer an Epi-Pen. The Nurse will provide the allergy plan on the database that is accessible to all faculty and staff for any child who has an allergy. This information is from the student's Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Plan.
- E. If a life-threatening allergy medical emergency occurs on school premises, an adult needs to immediately accompany the child to the nurses' office. Follow the doctor's instructions for treatment as outlined on the Emergency Allergy Action Plan placed in the Medication Book. Epi-Pens for each student with an order are kept on the open shelf in a box labeled, "Emergency Medication". Once an Epi-Pen is given 911 needs to be called so that the child can be transported to an emergency medical facility to be observed for at least four hours. While Nurse is tending to the child prior to the EMT's arrival, a secretary will notify parents and then call the child's doctor.
- F. To avoid contamination of foods with peanut/nut products, in the kitchen and cafeteria there will be: a. an allergen free area provided, if necessary, b. time for students to wash hands after eating, and c. washing of tables after eating, d. no peanut/nut products used in class projects and all potential allergens labeled in the dining room.
- G. Parents are asked to be sensitive to the needs of these children when sending treats to school for classroom parties. Please check labels and when in doubt about what to send, please call the school office for a list of suggestions. Remember that is not always obvious what foods have been in contact with allergen risk products.
- H. Parents are to send in safe snacks for their child to be kept in the classroom. Parents can "sign off" on safe snacks.
- I. The Nurse and the Science Department will only order and use latex-free gloves.