

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL, SCHOMBERG
ALLERGY AWARENESS PLAN 2018/2019

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that there are some students within the school system that are susceptible to severe anaphylactic reactions which could be life threatening. The York Catholic District School board also recognizes that anaphylaxis management is a shared responsibility among allergic students, parents, caregivers and the entire school community.

School staff and parents are responsible for creating safe and healthy environments for students within the limits created by legislation, school configuration, number of students with allergies, and available school staff. For some children, severe allergic reactions can be triggered not only by eating foods, but also by their touch and smell. This has implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms.

Bill 3, also known as **Sabrina's Law**, came into effect January 1st, 2006. The purpose of this legislation is to protect anaphylactic students by providing a safe learning environment for all.

St. Patrick C.E.S. is an "Allergen Safe" school. To this end, the following steps will be taken in order to attempt to establish and maintain an "Allergen Safe" environment, which recognizes the need for safety with regard to life threatening allergies.

***Please note that our allergy procedures may be updated regularly based on student needs.**

1. School Website/ Classroom Allergy Alert Letter will be sent home to all families which:

- Requests that lunches and snacks not contain nuts, nut products, eggs, or any other ingredients as indicated on students' emergency forms
- Lists products/foods to avoid
- Lists alternate products/foods to send
- Advises community of "Allergen Safe" environment and of "no food sharing" rule
- Is posted on the website at the start of the school year

2. Allergen Safe School Environment:

- Allergen safe school environment is one where every reasonable effort and precaution has been taken to minimize the risk of exposure to potentially life threatening allergens

3. Administration will:

- Contact parents of children for whom an individual action plan (S15a) form is required
- Communicate with all staff and others who are in direct contact with students the name, grade and classroom teacher of students who could require the immediate administration of medication due to life-threatening allergies and where their individual action plan and medication are located
- Develop an "individual action plan" for each student who has an anaphylactic allergy that includes details informing staff and others who are in direct contact with the student on a regular basis of the type of allergy, monitoring and avoidance strategies and appropriate treatment; a readily accessible emergency procedure for the student, including emergency contact information and storage for Epinephrine auto-injector, where necessary
- Provide and communicate to all staff the designated location of medication for students with anaphylaxis
- Provide regular and current training on anaphylaxis for all staff twice annually
- Communicate to the entire school community stressing "allergen safe" schools via newsletter, website, student agendas, regular assemblies, or Meet the Teacher Evening
- Promote the avoidance of allergens where practical and possible
- Ensure that school volunteers and visitors are aware of the Protection of Anaphylactic Students Policy

4. School Staff will:

- Participate in the regular and current training on anaphylaxis twice annually to learn how to recognize the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and the procedures
- To provide a copy of the S15(a) or S15(a1) form (which includes a photo of the student) to occasional teachers
- To discuss anaphylaxis with the class, in age appropriate terms outlining the allergen in the class, describing symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and procedures to follow should an anaphylactic reaction occur
- Become familiar with the specifics of the child's allergy/health issues
- Administer an Epinephrine auto-injector or other medication that is prescribed, even if there is no pre-authorization to do so if there is reason to believe that a student is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction
- Establish communication links for the upcoming year

5. Students will:

- Increase their awareness of anaphylactic reactions in recognizing symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction
- Practice allergen avoidance measures
- Promptly inform an adult as soon as accidental exposure occurs or symptoms appear
- Take responsibility for keeping their Epinephrine auto-injector with them at all times and knowing how to use the Epinephrine auto-injector where age and/or developmentally appropriate
- Wear Medic Alert identification at all times

6. Parents are asked to:

- Advise the school immediately upon registration and / or when in receipt of a diagnosis of an anaphylactic allergy
- Provide the Principal with a completed copy of form S15(a) for Elementary students prior to, or immediately after the start of the student's Elementary career, or immediately after a diagnosis of an anaphylactic allergy
- Ensure that all medical information pertinent to the student's life-threatening allergy is always current
- Provide the school with two (2)* up-to-date single-dose applications of the Epinephrine auto-injector, one to be stored in the school office, clearly marked with student's name and known allergen and the second to be carried on the student's person, clearly marked with the student's name and known allergen.
- Provide their child with a MEDIC ALERT BRACELET to be worn at all times. SPS will participate in the "**Medic Alert No Child Without**" program this year. Contact the school for more details.
- Practice allergen avoidance measures.

****If the parent/guardian is not in agreement with providing the school with two up-to-date applications of the Epinephrine auto-injector or the possession and carrying of one application Epinephrine auto-injector, the parent will be required to indicate this on the S15(a) or S15(a1) form upon submission to the Principal acknowledging that they take full responsibility for their decision.***

7. Food in the school:

(a) Lunches will be:

- Eaten indoors. ***Sharing of food is strictly prohibited.***
- ***Nuts or nut bi-products are to be strictly avoided throughout the school.***

(b) Snacks for all grades will be:

- Eaten indoors before/after recess. No food is allowed outdoors. **Sharing of food is strictly prohibited.**
- If nut products are brought as a snack, then:
 - It/they will be removed from the student.
 - An "Allergen Safe" reminder note will be given to the student/parent.
 - An alternative snack will be given (if available) to the student.

8. Student Transportation Services will:

- Ensure that the current form S15(a) or S15(a1) form received from the Principal is available on file:
 - i) in the Student Transportation Services office,
 - ii) in the appropriate service provider's dispatch office, and,
 - iii) in the appropriate school vehicle(s)
- Work with the school Principal and service provider to assign a specific seat to a student with life threatening allergies, if required

9. Food Sharing Events

(a) Large Scale Celebrations involving more than one class or many parents.

(VIP Graduation, Sacramental Celebrations, Carnival, Pancake Tuesday, Kindergarten Graduation, Parental Gatherings/Meetings, Volunteer Appreciation, CSC Meetings or functions, etc.)

- Food to be shared at these gatherings would be selected from a pre-approved list from the office and purchased by the teachers or committee involved.
- A letter will go to parents informing them of the Celebration and the Allergy Safe Foods.

(b) Classroom Celebrations:

(Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's, Easter, St. Patrick's, Theme Days, Year-end)

- Food to be shared at these gatherings would be made up of **allergy safe foods purchased by the teacher** (selected from a pre-approved list from the office).

(c) Birthdays

- The school will recognize and celebrate birthdays through announcements so it is not necessary to send in food to share with classmates.
- If a parent wishes to recognize a child's birthday with his/her class, he/she may only do so using:
 - (a) Non-food loot bags, or
 - (b) By child donating an educational game or book to the class and/or school library

10. School Functions or Fundraisers:

- a. Products used or sold will be Allergy Safe.

11. Field Trips / Out of School Activities

- a. Epi-pens and S15 forms will be taken on trips.
- b. Parents of severely allergic children may attend or transport their child by car.
- c. No food will be eaten on the bus.
- d. Students will not be allowed to purchase food items while on a trip**

12. Buddy System:

- a. Children with severe allergies may use a buddy when leaving the class to go to the library, office, washroom, etc. (Teacher will dialogue with the parent of the allergic child with regards to the use of the above).

The success of this plan is entirely dependent upon the collaborative efforts of the staff, parents and students of St. Patrick Catholic School.

Let's work together to make our school an "Allergy Safe" environment and keep all of our children safe and healthy!