

Allergic Shock (Anaphylaxis)

Policy No. 302.8

DEFINITION OF ANAPHYLAXIS:

Anaphylaxis is a sudden and severe allergic reaction, which can be fatal, requiring immediate medical emergency measures be taken.

The Board of Education, School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes), 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 student, parents, the school system 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 is designed to ensure 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 of Education, School District No.91 (Nechako Lakes), cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, the Board will take reasonable steps to provide an allergy-safe and allergy-aware environment for students with life-threatening allergies.

All schools in the district must implement the steps outlined in the following Board procedures on anaphylaxis, which include:

- A process for identifying anaphylactic students;
- An education plan for anaphylactic students and their parents to encourage the use by anaphylactic students of Medic-Alert identification;
- 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;
- A process for principals to monitor and report information about anaphylactic incidents to the Board in aggregate form;
- 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;
- Procedures for storage of medication;
- Procedures for administering medications including:
 - i. Procedures for obtaining preauthorization for employees to administer medication to an anaphylactic student; and,

- ii. Procedures for permitting employees to administer medication to an anaphylactic student in an emergency where there is no preauthorization.

An effective response to anaphylaxis depends on the cooperation of all members of the school community including students, parents, public health nurses, school personnel and volunteers.