



Anaphylaxis Policy

Purpose:

An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils enacted by the Ontario Legislature came into force January 1, 2006. The Act states that every School Board shall establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy as well as hold a file for each student who has been medically diagnosed by a physician with an allergy. It should be recognized that Maranatha Christian Academy cannot guarantee an allergen-free or risk-free environment, and that there is no legal responsibility in any jurisdiction to do so. However, MCA is committed to providing to the best of our ability, a safe setting for our students and staff who experience anaphylactic shock and other severe allergic reactions. This policy is intended to provide procedures, which are designed to minimize the risk of anaphylaxis and provide a reasonable and appropriate standard of care for both the elementary and secondary levels of our school.

Scope:

This policy applies to both the elementary and secondary levels. Each level will have designated and separate procedures.

Definitions:

Anaphylaxis: sometimes called allergic shock, is a potentially fatal allergic reaction to a specific substance, for example, certain foods, bee/insect stings, latex, and some medications.

EpiPen: An EpiPen is a medically prescribed auto-injection device used to administer epinephrine in the case of an anaphylactic reaction. There are two possible dosages, and an “EpiPen Jr.” or an “EpiPen” is prescribed according to weight. Medication expiration dates are noted on the outside of the EpiPen.

Allergen friendly environment: A safe environment where the school has done all that is reasonable to prevent an anaphylactic reaction, although offering no legal guarantee.

Responsibilities:

The MCA Board is responsible to ensure an Anaphylaxis policy is developed and appropriate procedures are in place to ensure, to the best of our ability, the safety of our students.

Policy:

MCA is committed to providing to the best of our ability, a safe setting for our students and staff who experience anaphylactic shock and other severe allergic reactions.

References:

38:1 Bill 3, Sabrina's Law, 2005:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=135&isCurrent=false&ParlSessionID=38:1



Anaphylaxis Procedures - *Secondary level*

Policy:

MCA is committed to providing to the best of our ability, a safe setting for our students and staff who experience anaphylactic shock and other severe allergic reactions. This document is intended to provide procedures, which are designed to minimize the risk of anaphylaxis and provide a reasonable and appropriate standard of care for the secondary level of our school.

Purpose:

To provide specific steps that will be taken within the school to ensure that the Anaphylactic Policy is enforced.

Scope:

As a high school community made up of many students and families, we cannot provide a legal guarantee or entirely safe environment but will endeavour to do everything that is reasonable to ensure an Allergen-Friendly high school designation.

- *****In terms of a peanut allergy, which is the most common cause of an anaphylactic reaction, our high school does not allow any food items containing peanuts but we do allow items that have “may contain peanuts” on the ingredient labels.***

Definitions:

Anaphylaxis: sometimes called allergic shock, is a potentially fatal allergic reaction to a specific substance, for example, certain foods, bee/insect stings, latex, and some medications. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include the following:

- sense of fear or impending doom
- tingling of the mouth
- swelling and/or itchiness of tongue, lips, eyes, face, body
- hives, swelling, blotchy redness
- flushing of face, neck
- tightness in throat and/or chest, shortness of breath, wheezing, trouble swallowing, drooling, change in voice, excessive clearing of throat, marked nasal stuffiness
- coughing, wheezing and/or choking
- nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea
- weakness, dizziness, loss of colour, sweatiness
- sudden unsteadiness, collapse, loss of consciousness, cessation of breathing

- rapid, weak pulse rate
- coma, respiratory failure

It is essential that caregivers be aware of possible symptoms and the necessity of immediate treatment. Not all symptoms have to be present for an anaphylactic reaction to be taking place. Reactions can be delayed for up to two hours.

EpiPen: An EpiPen is a medically prescribed auto-injection device used to administer epinephrine in the case of an anaphylactic reaction. There are two possible dosages, and an “EpiPen Jr.” or an “EpiPen” is prescribed according to weight. Medication expiration dates are noted on the outside of the EpiPen.

Allergen friendly environment: A safe environment where the school has done all that is reasonable to prevent an anaphylactic reaction, although offering no legal guarantee.

PROCEDURES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Responsibilities of the Board:

- The MCA Board will ensure a Policy is in place and appropriate procedures developed for both elementary and secondary levels. The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Responsibilities of the Principal:

1. Prior to every new school year, the principal will ensure applicable training is provided for all staff in regards to this policy and procedures.
2. If a restricted allergen is brought into the school and a student’s health is compromised, the anaphylactic student whose health was compromised will be made aware of the incident by the principal and the parent will be notified by the principal.

Responsibilities of the staff:

- To ensure that a list of students and their relevant medical details are kept in the office. The administrative staff will be sure that all necessary forms are filled out for those students who have been diagnosed with an allergy.
- To ensure EpiPens are stored appropriately (in the case of Secondary students – stored in a backpack or locker) and expiration dates are checked monthly.
- A medical file for each student diagnosed with an allergy, will be kept.
- Changes will be recorded in the school file and applicable teachers will be notified by admin staff.
- To be diligent in observing potential allergens to ensure compliance with current restrictions.
- Any incidences where restricted allergens are brought into the school will be dealt with immediately by the staff who is aware by removing the allergen, speaking with the student/parent/staff/volunteer involved. If applicable the parent will be contacted to ensure the incident does not reoccur. The anaphylactic student whose health was compromised will be made aware of the incident by the principal and the parent will be notified. Medical attention will be administered as required. An incident form will be completed.

Responsibilities of the parents:

- Parents will inform the school of severe allergies diagnosed by a physician and the approved medical treatment plan by completing all necessary forms at the beginning of each school year.
- Parents will also be responsible to update the school immediately in terms of any new information as it relates to their child's health.
- Parents will provide their children with any necessary treatment (i.e. EpiPens) and inform school admin and teaching staff of its location (ie: locker or backpack for Secondary school students).
- In conjunction with the school principal, the parents will arrange for and cover the costs of any special training that staff may require specific to their child's condition.

Responsibilities of Anaphylactic Students:

- Be aware of own medical condition and learn ways to keep self safe (ie: learn to read labels, learn to inject themselves).
- It is suggested that the students only eat foods brought from home. If a student chooses to eat other foods brought in to the school areas, they should be aware of the ingredients and accept the risks involved if the ingredients in foods are not known.
- Wash hands well before eating.
- Keep a prescribed EpiPen(s) available at all times. Know its location.
- Assist parents in keeping the school updated in terms of any new information as it relates to their health.

Responsibilities of all students:

- Take as much responsibility as possible to avoid allergens. *****In terms of a peanut allergy, which is the most common cause of an anaphylactic reaction, our high school does not allow any food items containing peanuts but we do allow items that have “may contain peanuts” on the ingredient labels.***
- Learn to recognize the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction.
- Promptly inform a staff member as soon as possible as symptoms appear.
- Wash hands before and after meals, especially when there is knowledge of a food allergy in the high school level.



Maranatha Christian Academy

Procedures

Anaphylaxis Procedures – Elementary

Policy:

MCA is committed to providing to the best of our ability, a safe setting for our students and staff who experience anaphylactic shock and other severe allergic reactions. This document is intended to provide

procedures, which are designed to minimize the risk of anaphylaxis and provide a reasonable and appropriate standard of care for the secondary level of our school.

Purpose:

To provide specific steps that will be taken within the school to ensure that the Anaphylactic Policy is enforced.

Scope:

As an elementary community made up of many students and families, we cannot provide a legal guarantee or entirely safe environment but will endeavour to do everything that is reasonable to ensure an Allergen-Friendly elementary school designation.

- *****In terms of a peanut allergy, which is the most common cause of an anaphylactic reaction, our elementary school does not allow any food items containing peanuts but we do allow items that have “may contain peanuts” on the ingredient labels in classrooms where an allergy does not exist.***

Definitions:

Anaphylaxis: sometimes called allergic shock, is a potentially fatal allergic reaction to a specific substance, for example, certain foods, bee/insect stings, latex, and some medications. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include the following:

- sense of fear or impending doom
- tingling of the mouth
- swelling and/or itchiness of tongue, lips, eyes, face, body
- hives, swelling, blotchy redness
- flushing of face, neck
- tightness in throat and/or chest, shortness of breath, wheezing, trouble swallowing, drooling, change in voice, excessive clearing of throat, marked nasal stuffiness
- coughing, wheezing and/or choking
- nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea
- weakness, dizziness, loss of colour, sweatiness
- sudden unsteadiness, collapse, loss of consciousness, cessation of breathing
- rapid, weak pulse rate
- coma, respiratory failure

It is essential that caregivers be aware of possible symptoms and the necessity of immediate treatment. Not all symptoms have to be present for an anaphylactic reaction to be taking place. Reactions can be delayed for up to two hours.

EpiPen: An EpiPen is a medically prescribed auto-injection device used to administer epinephrine in the case of an anaphylactic reaction. There are two possible dosages, and an “EpiPen Jr.” or an “EpiPen” is prescribed according to weight. Medication expiration dates are noted on the outside of the EpiPen.

Allergen friendly environment: A safe environment where the school has done all that is reasonable to prevent an anaphylactic reaction, although offering no legal guarantee.

PROCEDURES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Responsibilities of the Board:

- The MCA Board will ensure a Policy is in place and appropriate procedures developed for both elementary and secondary levels. The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Responsibilities of the Principal:

1. Prior to every new school year, the principal will ensure applicable training is provided for all staff in regards to this policy and procedures.
2. If a restricted allergen is brought into the school and a student's health is compromised, the anaphylactic student whose health was compromised will be made aware of the incident by the principal and the parent will be notified by the principal.

Responsibilities of the staff:

- To ensure that a list of students and their relevant medical details are kept in the office. The administrative staff will be sure that all necessary forms are filled out for those students who have been diagnosed with an allergy.
- Ensure classrooms with an allergy are properly labelled.
- To ensure EpiPens are stored appropriately in a safe, known location.
- In September the classroom teacher will notify parents via letter of any anaphylactic allergies in the class.
- A medical file for each student diagnosed with an allergy, will be kept.
- Changes will be recorded in the school file and applicable teachers will be notified by admin staff.
- To be diligent in observing potential allergens to ensure compliance with current restrictions.
- Any incidences where restricted allergens are brought into the school will be dealt with immediately by the staff who is aware by removing the allergen, speaking with the student/parent/staff/volunteer involved. If a child has a negative reaction the parent will be contacted. Medical attention will be administered as required. An incident form will be completed.

Responsibilities of the parents:

- Parents will inform the school of severe allergies diagnosed by a physician and the approved medical treatment plan by completing all necessary forms at the beginning of each school year.
- Parents will also be responsible to update the school immediately in terms of any new information as it relates to their child's health.
- Parents will provide their children with any necessary treatment.
- EpiPens will be good for the duration of the school.

Responsibilities of Anaphylactic Students:

- Be aware of own medical condition and learn ways to keep self safe (ie: learn to read labels, learn to inject themselves).
- It is suggested that the students only eat foods brought from home.
- Wash hands well before eating.

Responsibilities of all students:

- Take as much responsibility as possible to avoid allergens. *****In terms of a peanut allergy, which is the most common cause of an anaphylactic reaction, our elementary school does not allow any food items containing peanuts but we do allow items that have “may contain peanuts” on the ingredient labels in classrooms where an allergy does not exist.***
- Learn to recognize the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction.
- Promptly inform a staff member as soon as possible as symptoms appear.
- Wash hands before and after meals, especially when there is knowledge of a food allergy in the classroom.