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**MANAGEMENT OF LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS**

The Board of Education recognizes pupils may have allergies to certain foods and other substances and may be at risk for anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe and serious systematic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body (such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system). Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that may be rapid in onset and may cause death. Policy 5141.7 has been developed in accordance with the Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools developed by the New Jersey Department of Education and the Children's Hospital of St. Louis Program, Food Allergy Management & Education (FAME).

An Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) and an Individualized Emergency Healthcare Plan (IEHP) will be developed for each pupil at risk for a life-threatening allergic reaction. Self-administration of medication, the placement and the accessibility of epinephrine, and the recruitment and training of designees who volunteer to administer epinephrine during school and at school-sponsored functions when the school nurse or designee is not available shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5 through 18A:40-12.6d and Board Policy and Regulation H-2. School staff will be appropriately trained by the school nurse or designee to understand the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur.

The school district will develop and implement appropriate strategies and prevention measures for the reduction of risk of exposure to food allergens throughout the school day, during before-and after-school programs, at all school sponsored activities, in the cafeteria, or wherever food is present.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of parent(s) or legal guardians (s), staff, and pupils to prevent allergic reactions are outlined in Regulation H-2.

Every incident involving a life-threatening allergic reaction and/or whenever epinephrine is administered throughout the school day, during before- and after-school programs, and/or at all school-sponsored activities shall be reported to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee shall be responsible to notify emergency responders, the Vice Principal or designee, the school physician, and the Chief School Administrator. The CSA shall inform the Board of Education after every incident including life-threatening allergic reaction or whenever epinephrine is administered by the school nurse or designee. In addition, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5, the school nurse or designee shall arrange for the transportation of a pupil to the hospital emergency room by emergency services personnel after the administration of epinephrine, even if the pupil's symptoms appear to have resolved.

There will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip, and/or celebration. Because the ingredients of these food and beverage products may be unknown to the food preparation person and/or server, a pupil with anaphylaxis to food should not consume any food products that he/she is unsure of the ingredients. **If a staff member is unsure of the ingredients, they will consult with the school nurse and the ingredients in question will be re-evaluated. The ingredients might lead to exclusion of that food item from the curriculum-related activity.** The teacher will provide, advance notice of the classroom experience, field trip, or celebration in order for the pupil to bring a food or beverage product from their home so they may participate in the activity.

When a parent(s) or legal guardian (s) informs the CSA and the school nurse the pupil may have an anaphylactic reaction to a substance other than food, the CSA will work with the school staff to determine if these substances are on the school grounds. The CSA will inform and work with the parents(s) or legal guardian(s) and the pupil to avoid the pupil's exposure to these substances if present on school grounds.

School staff will be appropriately trained by the school nurse or designee to understand the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur. The school nurse or designee will provide appropriate training to school staff to understand allergies to food and other substances, to recognize symptoms of an allergic reaction, and to know the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur. The school nurse will work with appropriate school staff to eliminate or substitute the use of allergens in the allergic pupil's meals, educational/instructional tools and materials, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.

Policy 5141.7 and Regulation H-2 should be annually reviewed, evaluated, and updated where needed. Policy's and Regulation 5141.7 and H-2 will be disseminated and communicated to all parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils in the school in the beginning of each year and when a pupil enters the school after the beginning of the school year.

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#### **Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:16-6, -6.1	Indemnity of officers and employees against civil actions.
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.6 <u>et seq.</u>	Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-1	Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-3	Lectures to teachers
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-5	Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-6	In general
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-7, -8, -10, -11	Exclusion of pupils who are ill
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A: 40-12.3	Self-administration of medication by pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.5 through 18A:40-12.6d	Development of policy... via pre-filled auto-injector <i>et al....</i>
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-23 <u>et seq.</u>	Nursing Services for Nonpublic School Pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 44:6-2	Maintenance by boards of education of clinics for indigent children
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:62A-23 to 26	AED emergency medical services, 1999 statute
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development <u>See particularly:</u>
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1, -1.3, -1.4, -2.1, -2.3, -2.4	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Operation and Maintenance of School <u>See particularly:</u> Facilities
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.3	

New Jersey Department of Education – Guidelines for the Management of Life Threatening Food Allergies in Schools- September 2008

**Possible  
Cross References:**

1410	Local units
1420	County and intermediate units
3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
3516	Safety
3542	Food service
4112.4	Employee health
4131/4131.1	Staff development; in-service education/visitations/conferences
4151.2	Family illness/quarantine
4212.4	Employee health
4251.2	Family illness/quarantine
5111	Admission
5125	Pupil records
5131	Conduct/discipline
5141.1	Accidents
5141.2	Illness
5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
5141.21	Administering medication
5142	Pupil safety
5200	Nonpublic school pupils
6142.4	Physical education and health
6142.12	Career education

**Key Words:** Health, Pupil Health, Student Health, Employee Health