



## CCA School Policy for Management of Life-Threatening Allergy

The following general guidelines provide assistance in the development of school-based strategies for students with a severe allergy. Calvary Christian Academy will seek parental involvement in the planning.

For the purpose of this policy, anaphylaxis is defined as a sudden and severe allergic reaction which requires immediate treatment to prevent sudden death from suffocation or cardiac arrest.

An anaphylactic reaction can present as any of the following symptoms regardless of the triggering allergen. The symptoms may appear alone or in any combination.

- Skin: hives, swelling, itching, warmth, redness, rash
- Respiratory (breathing): wheezing, shortness of breath, throat tightness, cough, hoarse voice, chest pain/tightness, nasal congestion or hay fever-like symptoms (runny itchy nose and watery eyes, sneezing), trouble swallowing
- Gastrointestinal (stomach): nausea, pain/cramps, vomiting, diarrhea
- Cardiovascular (heart): pale/blue color, weak pulse, passing out, dizzy/lightheaded, shock
- Other: anxiety, feeling of “impending doom”, headache, uterine cramps in females

When a reaction begins, it is important to respond immediately following instructions provided in the student’s Allergy Action Plan. A copy of each student’s action plan is attached to the student’s EpiPen®/EpiPen Jr ®. EpiPens are clearly labeled and stored in a hanging file behind the door to the nurse’s office.

A) Identification of Students at Risk

- It is the responsibility of student's parents/guardians to inform the school nurse of their child's allergy(ies) and the reaction to an accidental exposure.
- All staff members with a need to know will be made aware of these students through medical binders and/or verbal consult.
- The student is highly encourage to wear a MedicAlert ® bracelet that states his or her severe allergy(ies).
- A photograph (with parental permission) and a description of each student's allergy(ies) and reaction(s) will be maintained in medical binders. Medical binders with appropriate information will be given to each CCA staff member that has a need to know (teachers, lunchroom personnel, administration, front desk, nursing office).

B) Availability and Location of EpiPens®

- At the discretion of the parent/guardian and medical provider, a student with severe allergy(ies) in grade 6 through 12 will be encouraged to responsibly carry his/her EpiPen ® at all times. A back up should be available in the school nursing office (Campus I) or in the medical cabinet (Campus II). If possible, the school will keep its own epinephrine in the nursing office in case of an emergency.
- Students who are no longer allergic or no longer require an EpiPen® or EpiPen Jr.® must present a letter from their medical provider stating so.
- EpiPen® or EpiPen Jr® should be brought on all field trips. The organizer of the field trip should carry a cell phone.

C) Treatment Protocol

- An individual Allergy Management Plan (Combination of the following forms: Parent Information Form for Allergies, Parent Consent, Allergy Action Plan, Medication Action Plan) needs to be established by the medical provider and parent. The school cannot assume responsibility for treatment in the absence of such a protocol.
- The following guidelines are to be used to manage an emergency.
  1. One CCA staff member will stay with the student at all times.
  2. One person will be sent to get help.
  3. Allergy Action Plan will be initiated by nursing staff. Time of administration of epinephrine will be noted.

There are no contraindications to the use of epinephrine for a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

4. 911 will be called by CCA staff member – if not already called. Regardless of the degree of reaction or response to epinephrine, the student will be transferred to the emergency department. Symptoms may recur up to eight hours after exposure to allergen. One CCA staff member will remain with the student until a parent or guardian arrives.
5. Student's parents/guardians or emergency contact will be contacted as soon as possible.

- CCA staff will be encouraged to listen to concerns of a student. A person usually knows when she/he is having a reaction, even before signs are manifested.

#### D) Training

- All staff will receive training in the recognition of an anaphylactic reaction.
- Staff will be instructed to take a student who reports potential symptoms of a reaction seriously. CCA staff will immediately get help.
- Staff will be informed via written documentation or verbal consult of any changes in their medical binder. Staff will be encouraged to periodically review their medical binders.

#### E) Allergen Awareness/Allergen Avoidance

- Given that food anaphylaxis can be triggered by minute amounts of allergen, food anaphylactic students must be instructed by their parents/guardians to follow the following guidelines:
  - To eat only food which they have brought from home unless it is packaged, clearly labeled and approved by their parent/guardian.
  - To wash hands before eating.
  - To not share food, utensils or containers.
  - To not trade food.
  - To place food on a napkin or wrapper rather than in direct contact with a desk or table.
- The above guidelines will be reinforced as is practical by the school staff.
- Use of food in cooking class and crafts should be restricted or modified, depending on life-threatening allergy(ies) of a student.
- In signing a field trip consent, parents/guardians must

understand that CCA and it's staff cannot provide the degree of control afforded to the student while inside the school.

- Foods associated with holidays and celebrations should be restricted or modified depending on the life-threatening allergy(ies) of the child.
- Lunchroom eating surfaces will be cleaned thoroughly with a detergent after every lunch period.
- The school will take the following precautions to reduce the risk of exposure when a life-threatening insect venom allergy exists:
  - Nesting areas of bees and wasps, when identified, will be removed as soon as possible and as is practical.
  - Students will be advised not to tamper with insect nests.
  - A student with a life-threatening insect venom allergy will be allowed, per parent request, to remain indoors during bee/wasp season.
  - A student with a life-threatening insect venom allergy will be immediately removed from the room if a bee/wasp gets into the classroom or any area the student is in.
  - Trash cans that are attracting insects will either be cleaned out or placed in an area away from the student when in school and/or outside for recess and physical education.
- The school will take the following precautions to reduce the risk of exposure when a life-threatening latex allergy exists:
  - Educate CCA staff of the signs and symptoms of mild to severe reaction to exposure to latex products.
  - Educate staff to consistently read product labels to ensure only latex-free items are used when allergic student is involved.
  - When possible, obtain/utilize latex-free products ie: gym equipment, bandages.
  - Latex and latex-free products should be stored segregated and appropriately labeled.