

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

The incidence of severe allergic reactions has been rising at an alarming rate, especially with regard to food. Other common causes of anaphylaxis include allergies to latex, medications, and insect stings.

The Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007, specifically Public Health Law Section 2500-h effective January 3, 2007, requires the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department, establish an anaphylactic policy setting forth guidelines and procedures regarding anaphylaxis (see Public Health Law Section 2500-h for complete information). The law further requires that each school board consider and take action in response to this resource document. It is advisable that each local board of education develop a written anaphylactic policy.

In accordance with the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department, Bethlehem Central School District's Anaphylaxis Policy will include the following essential components:

- 1) Procedures and treatment plans, including responsibilities for school nurses and other appropriate school personnel, for responding to anaphylaxis;
- 2) A training course for appropriate school personnel for preventing and responding to anaphylaxis;
- 3) Procedures and appropriate guidelines for the development of an individualized emergency health care plan for children at risk for anaphylaxis;
- 4) A communication plan between the school building team and parent/guardian, the school nurse and the private health care provider, and the school nurse and building staff for intake and dissemination of information regarding students at risk for anaphylaxis; and
- 5) Strategies for the reduction of the risk within the school setting, such as reasonable efforts to control exposure to anaphylactic causative agents, including food and other allergens, or opportunities for management within the classroom, such as carrying medications or supplies and self-medicating as appropriate.

Ref: Allergy and Anaphylaxis Mgmt Act 2007
Public Health Law, § 2500h

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