

ALLERGY/ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Allergies and asthma can be life threatening. The Avon Public Schools district believes that by working with students, parents/guardians, and physicians, we can minimize the risks associated with allergy and asthma conditions. Although it's unrealistic to believe that all risks can be eliminated, we strive to provide a safe, educational environment for allergic and asthmatic students. Below is an outline of responsibilities that explains what is needed to determine a student's condition and a student's individualized care plan.

Parent/Guardian's Responsibility each School Year:

1. Provide the school nurse with written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by the student's physician.
2. Provide up-to-date emergency contact information.
3. Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the student's needs within the school environment; including the classroom, cafeteria, school-sponsored activities, and on the bus. The parent/guardian will notify the nursing department of their child's participation in school sponsored activities.
4. Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration.
5. Educate the child in the self-management of his or her allergy/asthma including the following:
 - Safe and unsafe foods
 - Strategies for avoiding exposure
 - Symptoms of allergic/asthma reactions
 - How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy/asthma-related problem.
 - Procedure for self-administration of medications
6. Evaluate procedures with the school staff, the student's physician and the student after a reaction occurs.
7. Keep the school nurse updated on the status of a child's allergy/asthma condition.

School's Responsibility each School Year:

1. Review the health records submitted by parent/guardian and physician.
2. Include allergic/asthma students in school activities. Students will not be excluded from school activities solely based on their allergy.
3. Identify a core team of, but not limited to, the school nurse, teacher, principal and school food service manager to work with the parent/guardian to establish an Individualized Health Care Plan and an Emergency Care Plan. Changes to the plan should be made with core team participation, and reviews should occur at least annually. Staff who interact with the student on a regular basis will recognize symptoms and know what to do in an emergency.
4. School nurse will ensure medications are appropriately stored and maintained in an easily accessible, secure location central to designated school personnel. Students who meet the requirements of the Self-Medication Assessment Tool will be allowed to carry and administer their own EpiPen/asthma inhaler*.
5. Designate school personnel to be trained in the administration of an EpiPen to a student with a prescription in accordance with the medication policy.
6. Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is always a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location.
7. Work with the district transportation administrator to ensure that student's school bus driver training include symptom awareness and what to do if a reaction occurs, and to enforce the "no eating" policy on the bus.
8. Administration and/or the parent/guardian will provide the school nurse with a list of school-sponsored activities that the student will attend during the current school year (i.e. sports, clubs, music events, art show, ice cream socials, carnivals, etc). This will allow the school nurse sufficient time to plan with parent/guardian, teachers, and administration, a safe emergency plan during the event. This plan will be part of the student's Individualized Health Care Plan.

** The Act requires the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to adopt regulations to permit children diagnosed with either asthma or an allergic condition to retain possession of asthmatic inhalers and automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors at all times while attending school, provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse.*

Current regulations allow for students to self-administer medications while in school. Therefore, children diagnosed with either asthma or an allergic condition can retain possession of asthmatic inhalers and automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors at all times while attending school, as long as: (1) an authorized prescriber provides a written order for self administration; (2) there is written authorization from the student's parent or guardian; and (3) the school nurse has evaluated the situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate. The full text for Public Act 09-155 can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/Pa/pdf/2009PA-00155-R00SB-00755-PA.pdf>.