

**Board of Education
School District 54 (Bulkley Valley)**

ANAPHYLAXIS

9.115

PREAMBLE

In September, 2007, the Minister of Education signed the *Anaphylactic Protection Order*. This Ministerial Order provides the core components of policies and procedures that Boards of Education must have in place to effectively safeguard students with allergies while in school.

Although District schools have well established practices and procedures to deal with anaphylaxis, the Ministerial Order underscores the need for a comprehensive policy development. The Policy Committee independently identified the need for anaphylaxis policy in June, 2007.

POLICY

The Board is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment. While it is impossible to create a risk-free environment, steps can, and must be taken to minimize the risk of anaphylactic reactions.

An effective response to anaphylaxis depends on the cooperation of all members of the school community including students, parents, public health nurses, school personnel and volunteers.

School based policy and procedures must address the following core components¹ prescribed by the Ministry of Education in its *British Columbia Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework*.

1. Definition
2. Identification of Individuals at Risk
3. Record Keeping: Monitoring & Reporting
4. Emergency Procedure Plan
 - a. Student Level Emergency Procedure Plan
 - b. School Level Emergency Procedure Plan
5. Use of Medical Identification
6. Provision and Storage of Medication
7. Allergy Awareness, Prevention & Avoidance Strategies
8. Training Strategy

¹ See Appendix A

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Additionally, school based policy and procedures *should* address the following:

Roles and Responsibilities

Schools should ensure that there is a clear and shared understanding of the respective roles of Public Health officials and School personnel.

Incident Debriefing

Schools should ensure that subsequent to an anaphylactic incident, an opportunity is provided to debrief with the student, parents, school personnel and public health. These 'lessons learned' can enhance the school's capacity to reduce risk in the future.

Education and Communication

Creating an allergy aware school is the objective of this initiative even in schools where there is no identified child at risk of anaphylaxis.

Evaluation

It is important to know what effect policies and procedures have on achieving the goal of reducing preventable serious reactions and deaths due to anaphylaxis. While there are challenges to evaluating the impact of school policies and procedures, schools should develop and evaluation frameworks that asks:

Is the number of students at risk increasing or decreasing? How does this compare with the general population?

Is the frequency of anaphylactic incidents changing, and if so, how?

When an incident has occurred, did the policies and procedures implemented have a positive impact of the outcome?

Has mandated training resulted in improved capacity to respond appropriately?

Have other policies had a positive impact.

Adopted: November 19, 2007