

# **The NET Charter High School Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis) Policy:**

## **Background:**

Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can be caused by a variety of triggers and most commonly include food & insect stings. Other common causes of anaphylaxis include allergies to latex, medications, and various environmental stimuli.

## **Pathophysiology and treatment:**

Anaphylaxis can affect almost any part of the body and cause various symptoms. The most dangerous symptoms include difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, swelling of mucus membranes and a drop in blood pressure or shock, which are potentially fatal.

Medications to treat anaphylaxis include:

- o Epinephrine
- o Antihistamines

Treatment of anaphylaxis is centered on treating the rapidly progressing effects of the histamine release in the body with epinephrine. The allergen should also be removed immediately.

## **Creating an Allergen-Safe School Environment**

- Protecting students from exposure to identified allergens is the primary method to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis.
- The risk of exposure to allergens for a student is reduced when the school personnel, medical provider and parent/guardian work together to develop a management plan for the student.
- Educating the entire school community about life-threatening allergies (while maintaining confidentiality) is important in keeping students with life-threatening allergies safe.

## **The School Team**

- **School Principal**
- School Nurse
- Dean Team
- Teachers
- Food Service Staff

## **Policy**

Pursuant to ensuring the health and safety of students, the school nurse or trained school employee may administer auto-injectable epinephrine, as defined in RS 17:436.1 subparagraph (J)(4)(a) to a student who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine.

At least one employee at each school shall receive training from a registered nurse or a licensed medical physician in the administration of auto-injectable epinephrine. The school nurse or trained employee may administer the auto-injectable epinephrine to respond to a student's anaphylactic reaction, under a standing protocol from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state.

The NET Charter High School (TNCHS) will maintain a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at the school in a locked, secure, and easily accessible location for use when deemed necessary pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

### **Anaphylaxis Management**

*Anaphylaxis Algorithm available on-site with emergency medication for direction*

- I. The school nurse will review Student Health Information and compile a list of severe allergies and disseminate that list to teachers and food service personnel.
- II. TNCHS shall provide necessary precautions and general training for staff on school grounds, the cafeteria, or on school buses; Staff will prevent exposure to identified allergens as much as is feasible.
- III. TNCHS will provide training by licensed medical personnel/ registered nurses, as needed, for all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of an anaphylactic reaction;
- IV. TNCHS staff will create Individual Health Care Plans (IHP), Emergency Care Plans (ECP), 504 Plans, or Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) as needed;
- V. TNCHS will maintain standing emergency medical protocols to authorize a school nurse or trained school employee to administer auto- injectable epinephrine to a student who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine.
- VI. TNCHS shall maintain supplies of life saving emergency medications, such as auto-injectable epinephrine, as allowed by Louisiana state law.
- VII. TNCHS will administer auto- injectable epinephrine as prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.
- VIII. TNCHS shall allow self-directed students as determined by the school nurse to carry life saving medication with prior approval by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.

- ix. TNCHS shall assure that appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place to create an allergen free school environment.