

## **Life Threatening Allergy Policy**

River Valley Charter School recognizes the increasing prevalence of life-threatening allergies for many children. Some of the most common allergens that cause life-threatening harm include food, insect stings, medications, and latex. While River Valley cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy related event at school, this policy has been created to reduce the risk of exposure. Our school community is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for children who have been identified with life-threatening allergies.

### **A. PREPARED ENVIRONMENT**

- Children should not share food/drink with one another to respect the dietary needs of children and to prevent potential life-threatening allergic reactions
- Curriculum activities, community events, or field trips involving food require a two week prior notification and consultation with the nurse
- Classrooms may be designated peanut/treenut free, as needed
- Food served as part of our free School Meals program will be peanut/treenut free, and options are available to accommodate children with documented food allergies
- There will be an allergen-free table available in each classroom, as needed
- A River Valley staff member trained in the administration of epinephrine will accompany students with food allergies during field trips
- Epinephrine auto-injectors will be permanently located in at least two common locations at River Valley

### **B. EDUCATION**

At the beginning of the school year, all school personnel will be required to complete training in the management of student allergies, recognition of signs of an allergic reaction, activation of the emergency response plan, and the administration of epinephrine via auto injector. All staff will receive training on school protocol regarding food preparation and consumption.

### **C. HEALTH CARE PLANS**

An Emergency Health Care Plan (EHCP) or an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) will be developed for every student identified with a life-threatening allergy.

The purpose of an EHCP is to communicate known allergy risks for a child and to establish a plan for responding to an allergic reaction. The EHCP must be created and signed by the child's physician and caregivers, and submitted to the school along with epinephrine. Children with known life-threatening allergies must have a current, signed EHCP submitted to the School Nurse as well as personal epinephrine before leaving campus for field trips or going out.

The purpose of an IHCP is to establish and communicate day-to-day protocols for minimizing risk for a specific student with known life-threatening allergy. The IHCP will be developed by the School Nurse and shared with the child's caregivers and classroom teachers.

This document shall be reviewed by our medical staff annually or as necessary.