

Mansfield ISD Guidelines for the Nurse in School Setting

Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction

SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT

Begin the four components of assessment (see *Systematic Assessment/Immediate Care and Assessment Tools*) and perform interventions AS YOU GO.

KEY ASSESSMENT POINTS FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

- **Respiratory assessment**
 - Focused physical examination of skin findings
 - History of systemic allergic reaction
 - History of food allergy
 - Events preceding reaction, such as a bite/sting

DETERMINE TRIAGE CATEGORY AND APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS

Determine triage category and activate EMS AS SOON AS the need becomes apparent!

EMERGENT

- **S/S of cardiopulmonary compromise** (see *Assessment Tools*)
- Airway compromise
- Change in mental status or LOC
- Cyanosis at mouth and lips
- S/S of severe respiratory distress (wheezing, dyspnea)
- Signs of shock/hypotension
- History of anaphylaxis
- Edema of face, lips, eyes, or tongue
- Generalized hives involving large area
- Diaphoresis
- Complaints of (C/o) tightness in throat or chest
- C/o apprehension and/or weakness

INTERVENTIONS

- Activate EMS
- Support C-ABCDE
- Administer prescribed autoinjectable epinephrine **if available**
- Repeat autoinjectable epinephrine in 10 min if no response
- Initiate CPR if necessary
- For severe respiratory distress, administer prescribed bronchodilator
- **Consult IHP/ECP**
- Directly/continuously observe student
- Contact parent/guardian
- Notify school administrator
- Follow-up

URGENT

- S/S of **mild** systemic reaction; e.g., localized hives, abdominal cramps, nausea, or vomiting
- Edema of extremities
- Persistent coughing
- Tingling, itching of face, ears, or nose
- History of allergy

INTERVENTIONS

- Determine need for EMS
- **Consult IHP/ECP**
- Observe student closely
- Administer prescribed autoinjectable epinephrine **if available** and activate EMS
- Contact parent/guardian to transport student to medical care or home
- Follow-up

NONURGENT

- Local reaction **only**
- Responsive to medications
- Nasal congestion
- Persistent sneezing

INTERVENTIONS

- **Consult IHP/ECP**
- Apply cold pack to site
- Observe student
- Contact parent/guardian
- Return student to class or send home as indicated
- Follow-up as needed or per policy

The Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children School Nurse Committee has exercised extreme caution that all information presented is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. The information does not serve as a substitute for the professional advice of a physician/advanced practice nurse, does not dictate an exclusive course of treatment, and should not be construed as excluding other acceptable methods of treatment. It is recommended that care must be based on the student's clinical presentation and authorized policies.