Severe Allergic Reactions

The incidence of life threatening allergy in children continues to rise. Of particular concern is an allergic reaction which has the potential to result in anaphylaxis, a condition which includes symptoms such as difficulty breathing and/or a drop in blood pressure, which can be fatal. An anaphylactic reaction may be induced by allergens such as food, insect stings or bites, latex, and medications, as well as the result of an idiopathic or exercise-induced means.

Maryvale is committed to working with families, students, and physicians to provide a safe and healthy environment. Although our campus is not an "allergy-free" environment, we strive to keep our students as safe as possible through the following guidelines developed in alignment with the recommendations as per Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE).

Guidelines

Upon receiving information that a student has a diagnosis of or is at risk for anaphylaxis, due to a severe life threatening allergy as documented by a physician, the parent (and if appropriate, the student) will be interviewed to discuss the student's allergy, reaction, and treatment plan. A plan of care will be developed and will be on file in the Health Suite.

An Allergy Action Plan/EpiPen Care Plan will be obtained from the physician outlining the steps to be taken in the event of an exposure to the specified allergen. It is the parent's responsibility to provide and replace, prior to the expiration date, any medication outlined in the plan. A student may carry their own EpiPen if this is mutually agreeable with the physician, parent, and school nurse and the option is elected on the health form. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. A back-up EpiPen is strongly encouraged to be kept in the Health Suite even if student is authorized to carry. EpiPens kept in the Health Suite will be in an unlocked, easily accessed area.

Upon completion of the Allergy Action Plan/EpiPen Care Plan, the student's information, including picture, allergy type and treatment plan will be on file in the Health Suite. With parental approval, it will also be added to the Health Concerns List and shared with relevant faculty and staff for their reference while on campus as well as off-campus excursions such as field trips and overnight trips.

Students may have the option of sitting at a table in the Dining Room designated as peanut/tree-nut free in order to reduce the risk of their exposure to this allergen. This option must be elected by the parent/guardian and documented in the student's care plan. Students utilizing this option may have others join them to avoid isolation, provided the additional student(s) are also eating a peanut/tree-nut free meal. The surface will be wiped down after meals with a cleaner designated as effective in cleaning allergens off hard surfaces. Hand washing before and after meals is encouraged for all students and staff to prevent the spread of infection and allergen residue.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to review the menu posted on the Maryvale website or contact our Food Services Director for further discussion of our menu options. Depending upon the nature of a student's specific food allergy, the most prudent option may be to bring their own lunch. The Health Suite at Maryvale Preparatory School uses only latex-free gloves.

Annual Staff Education is provided in the areas of Food Allergy, Anaphylaxis, and EpiPen training. Yearly, Maryvale students will receive basic allergy information regarding food allergies, anaphylaxis, and student responsibilities.