



Montessori in Delta Society

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Policy Statement

We as a school are interested in protecting all children against the possibility of a severe, life-threatening anaphylactic reaction to allergens in our environment. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction. It can cause severe sickness or death. It can happen in seconds, minutes or even hours after someone has been exposed to the “allergen” (allergy source). Urgent medical treatment is required.

Policy Rationale

The goal of our policy is to provide a safe environment for children with life threatening allergies, but it is not possible to reduce the risk to zero. The texture of peanut butter, for example, presents particular challenges in terms of contamination and cleaning of surfaces. While it may be possible to eliminate peanut products from the school it would be virtually impossible to do so with milk or wheat products. For this reason, we ask parents not to send food to school with peanuts or other nuts (e.g. almonds, cashews, pecans, walnuts, etc.) when there is a child enrolled in the school who is known to have an anaphylactic reaction to these foods. Parents should check product labels on common items such as granola bars, cookies and crackers. Should we have a child enrolled with an equally serious reaction to another food substance, we would re-examine this policy depending on the nature of the allergen.

Scope

This policy covers all children and adults who are learning, working, volunteering and visiting Boundary Bay Montessori School.



Policy Procedures

The following guidelines should be followed to ensure the safest environment possible if your child has a severe allergy. A coordinated effort between parents, staff members and students is required to make this happen.

Parents and Guardians of Students with Allergies must:

- Inform school every year of your child's allergy and give updated emergency contacts.
- Provide school with a doctor's note stating the allergy, symptoms of an attack and the prescribed treatment.
- Work with the school and teachers to develop a plan for your child.
- Encourage your child to speak out when he/she feels he/she is having an allergic reaction.
- Encourage your child to carry his/her own Epi-Pen, not share foods/utensils and practice good hand washing.
- Teach your child that it is okay to say, "no" to foods when offered.
- Ensure that your child wears a medic-alert bracelet or necklace.

The Academic Director is required to:

- Indicate with a check on the Medical Alert box on the student's 1704 Permanent Student Record and with a red dot on their student file, that there is important medical information on the student
- Ensure that the student's medical alert information remains with the 1704 Permanent Student Record when the student transfers to another school.

Directresses and staff are required to:

- Follow school policy and plan for the allergic child.
- Discuss allergies in age-appropriate terms with students.
- Create a positive attitude and safe environment without isolating the child.
- Do not use identified foods in activities or parties.
- Encourage hand washing before and after eating.
- Discourage sharing of food and utensils.
- Take Epi-pen and cellular phone and/or arrange phone access on all field trips.



Students with allergies:

- Will only eat foods from home and not share utensils or drinks.
- Will tell an adult if he/she feels he/she is having an allergic reaction.
- Know where his/her Epi-pen is at all times.
- Wash hands before and after eating.