



WELL-BEING: Health **ALLERGIES**



RATIONALE

The safety and well-being of all children in UFCC programs is the first responsibility of all staff. Every precaution will be taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with known allergens. This procedure is based on the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

RESPONSIBILITY

All staff.

PROCEDURE

1. During the registration process, parents/guardians are required to complete the Registration Form, the Childhood History Form and an Individualized Plan for a Child with Medical Needs, which all include space for a parent/guardian to record a child's allergies.
2. Parents/Guardians must provide centre staff members, in writing, with detailed information on any condition requiring special treatment for their child, along with the procedures to follow in case of an allergic reaction or emergency.
3. Staff must be knowledgeable about the Anaphylaxis Management Policy and the location of all allergy medication.
4. The Supervisor or Satellite Program Leader will be responsible for notifying all staff members, supply staff members, students and volunteers of allergies or special medical conditions of newly enrolled children.
5. Allergy lists will be posted in the kitchen, in all eating areas, and all classrooms. Individual plans will be developed for field trips and camp when food is served in a variety of settings.
6. Food allergies will be noted on the snack/lunch carts/trays, as an extra precaution.
7. Should a staff member expose a child to food/materials to which they have a known allergy, disciplinary action will occur.

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ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO SUPPORT WELL-BEING



RATIONALE

To reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents of individuals regularly in the Child Care Centres. This procedure aligns with Sabrina's Law, 2005 legislation. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction and can be life threatening. The allergy may be related to food, insect stings, medicine, latex, exercise, etc. This policy is to help support the needs of a person with a severe allergy and provide some information on anaphylaxis and awareness to parents, employees, students and visitors at the child care centre.

RESPONSIBILITY

All staff and summer camp staff.

The Supervisor is responsible for notifying all staff, students and volunteers about allergies or special medical conditions of any child enrolled in the program. Further, the Supervisor is responsible for ensuring at registration that parents provide written information about allergies their child may have and any precautions the staff members may need to take in order to reasonably safeguard the child as well as appropriate action in the event of a reaction.

SABRINA'S LAW

Although the peanut is by far the most frequent allergen causing anaphylaxis in school-aged children, it is certainly not the only one. In addition to peanuts, cow's milk, eggs, fish, sesame seeds, shellfish (crustaceans and mollusks), soy, tree nuts (almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, filberts or hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts) and wheat as well as bee stings have been identified as the most likely to cause severe anaphylactic reactions in Canadians (Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards, Canadian School Boards Association, 2001).

The child care program recognizes that some students are at risk to experience severe anaphylactic reactions to common allergens. Such allergic reactions could conceivably be life-threatening.

While we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, the child care program—in accordance with 'Sabrina's Law: An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils', shall make every reasonable effort to:

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- Reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common areas.
- Ensure that personnel are aware of which students within the centre population have been identified as being at risk to experience severe anaphylactic reactions.
- Implement procedures necessary to intervene effectively in the event of an anaphylactic emergency.

In order for centre staff to respond appropriately, it is crucial that the parent/guardian keep the centre staff fully informed of the nature of the student's allergic condition and the medication(s) which have been prescribed to address the condition.

With respect to the administration of emergency medication at the time of an anaphylactic reaction, 'Sabrina's Law: An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils' is very clear:

- "If an employee has reason to believe that a pupil is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction, the employee may administer an Epinephrine auto-injector or other medication prescribed to the pupil for the treatment of an anaphylactic reaction, even if there is no pre-authorization to do so under subsection (1)." 2005, c.7, s. 3 (3).
- "No action for damages shall be instituted respecting any act done in good faith or for any neglect or default in good faith in response to an anaphylactic reaction in accordance with this Act, unless the damages are the result of an employee's gross negligence." 2005, c. 7, s. 3 (4).

PROCEDURE

1. As a communication plan for providing information on life threatening allergies, an Individualized Plan for Child with Medical Needs form has been developed to capture all relevant information including emergency procedures in the event of exposure to allergens. These forms will be put in the child's file and posted in each playroom, the food prep area, and in the eating area.
2. Parents must update the UFCC staff members regarding any change in their child's allergy profile and this information must be recorded in the child's file with the Authorization form for the Administration of Medication from the physician.
3. An individual plan will be developed with the child's parent/guardian and the child's physician for each child. The Individualized Plan for Child with Medical Needs form will be completed and posted or made available where appropriate.
4. The parent will sign to show they consent to the method by which staff members are trained to administer emergency medication and identify how that training was provided (e.g. the parent, a doctor, a nurse, through First Aid training, etc.)
5. All participants in the program—staff, students, volunteers, etc.—will review the individual plan for each child before they begin employment/participation/placement and annually thereafter.

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6. The individual plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current with revisions done as needed.
7. The staff members will review the Special Instructions section of the Child Care and Early Years Act, Ontario Regulation 137/15 (Section 39.1)

RULES FOR PARENTS: BRINGING FOOD FROM HOME

Program Supervisors/Program Leaders will review this section of the policy and the Anaphylaxis Management (WBH_4) with parents during the enrollment process.

Parents should not send any food/drink to the child care that contains any centre allergens. UFCC staff will ensure the health and safety of all children by checking any food sent/brought from home to ensure all foods are safe to be consumed (e.g. have not passed their expiry date) and will remove any foods containing centre allergens, substituting with another food item if necessary. Should a child bring an item(s) containing centre allergens to the program, the item(s) will be wrapped and stored in the office and returned to the family at the end of the day.

If food/drink is sent/brought to the centre from home because of dietary restrictions/allergies in order to replace food items provided by the Umbrella, the items should be in their original packaging and clearly list the ingredients. If that is not possible, a list of ingredients must be provided for the item(s), in case they affect the allergens of other children or staff. Expiry dates will be checked by staff.

When food is sent to the centre, it should be in an insulated lunch bag containing an ice pack to keep food at a safe temperature. All food that needs to be served warm should be packed in an insulated thermos. It is important that the lunch bag and all containers are labeled clearly with the child's name and food items are kept in the original container(s), if possible.

Kindergarten and school age children attending a full day program on PA Days or during school breaks must bring a bagged lunch, unless otherwise stated. If a child forgets their lunch, the Umbrella will attempt to contact the parent to see if they can bring the child's lunch. If not, the Umbrella will provide a lunch for the child for that day.

Parents are requested to pack healthy foods/drinks based on information from Canada's Food Guide (e.g. lunch should consist of servings from four different food groups: meat and alternatives, milk products, breads and cereal, fruits and vegetables). Staff members will encourage children to eat the most nutritious items from their lunch bag before any treats are consumed (e.g. cookies, candy, etc.).

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