

Thornhill Secondary School
Policy for Management of Life-Threatening Allergies

Identification of Children at Risk:

- It is the responsibility of the anaphylactic/potentially anaphylactic child's parents to inform the school of their child's allergy.
- All staff members need to be made aware of these children
- Each child should wear a MedicAlert bracelet that states his or her allergy and the location of his/her auto-injector (EpiPen).
- A description of each child's allergy will be kept in the main office.

Availability and Location of EpiPens:

- Anaphylactic or potentially anaphylactic children who are old enough should carry at least one EpiPen with them at all times and have back ups available in the school. As a precaution, the school will keep 2 extra EpiPens in the office, in case of emergency.
- It cannot be presumed that children/adults will self-administer their auto-injector. All adults in the building should assume that they may have to assist a student with the administration of the EpiPen.
- Children who are no longer allergic or no longer require an EpiPen must present a letter of explanation from their allergist.
- Additional EpiPens should be brought on field trips. The organizers must carry a cell phone as well.

Treatment Protocol:

- An individual treatment protocol needs to be established by the child's allergist and parents. A copy of this protocol will be on the information sheet for each child.
- To manage an emergency, a routine must be established and practiced. In our training session, we have worked on the following:
 - a) One person stays with the injured individual at all times
 - b) One person goes to the main office for additional help
 - c) Administer epinephrine (EpiPen) at the **first sign** of a reaction, however slight (eg. Itching or swelling of the lips/mouth in food allergic children). **There are no contraindications to the use of epinephrine for a potentially allergic reaction.** Note time of administration.
 - d) Call 911 and, regardless of the degree of the reaction or response to epinephrine, transfer the child to the emergency room. Symptoms may recur up to eight hours after exposure to allergen. Once calm and familiar person must stay with the child until a parent or guardian arrives.
 - e) Contact the child's parents.
- Adults must be encouraged to listen to the concerns of the anaphylactic child. The child usually knows when she/he is having a reaction, even before signs are manifest.

Training:

- Each year there should be awareness sessions and training for all staff, which includes a demonstration on the use of the EpiPen.
- Substitute teachers will be advised to check with the main office for a list of the students who are affected by anaphylaxis.

Allergen Awareness/Allergen Avoidance:

The risk of accidental exposure to a food allergen cannot be removed but the school will take all necessary precautions to significantly diminish the risk. Given that anaphylaxis can be triggered by minute amounts of allergen, food anaphylactic children and all children must be encouraged to follow certain guidelines.

- To eat only food which they have brought from home unless it is packaged, clearly labeled and approved by their parents.
- Wash hands before and after eating.
- No sharing of food, utensils, or containers.
- Place food on a napkin or wax paper rather than in direct contact with a desk or table.

Please note that students may eat only in the cafeteria. Water only may be consumed in the halls, classes and student resource centre.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to LIFE-THREATENING allergies in some students, PEANUTS, TREE NUTS and NUT PRODUCTS are not to be brought to Thornhill Secondary School.



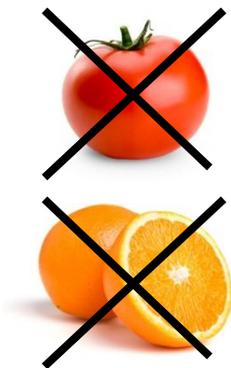
Peanuts, peanut butter, tree nuts, Nutella, chocolate bars and candies with nuts, granola bars containing nuts and any other product with nuts **should not be brought into the school**, including the CAFETERIA.

People eating any of the above foods before coming to school are asked to thoroughly wash their hands because even small traces can be inhaled and cause fatal reactions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ALLERGY ALERT

As this is a life-threatening allergy, your full co-operation is greatly appreciated.



A Thornhill S.S. Staff member has a life-threatening Allergy to the following Citrus Foods and their odours: Oranges, lemons, grapefruits and tomatoes.

Staff and students are asked to consume and dispose of citrus foods and tomato food products (e.g. pizza) **IN THE CAFETERIA ONLY**.

The teacher will not enter the cafeteria area.

Citrus foods and tomato-BASED foods are not to be consumed or disposed of in the hallways or classrooms.