
2. POLICIES and PROCEDURES

2.11 Anaphylactic Policy

28-29. Checklist Reference

**LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE****36.1(1), (2), (3)**

- 36.1(1) Every operator shall ensure that each day nursery operated by the operator and that each location where private-home day care is provided by the operator has an anaphylactic policy that includes the following:
1. A strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents.
 2. A communication plan for the dissemination of information on life-threatening allergies, including anaphylactic allergies.
 3. Development of an individual plan, with input from the child's parent or guardian and the child's physician, for each child with an anaphylactic allergy that includes emergency procedures in respect of the child.
 4. Training from a physician or a parent on procedures to be followed in the event of a child having an anaphylactic reaction.
- (2) The individual plan for a child with anaphylaxis and the emergency procedures in respect of the child shall be reviewed as follows:
1. By all employees before they begin their employment and at least annually afterwards.
 2. By volunteers and students who will be providing care or guidance at the day nursery before they begin providing that care or guidance and at least annually afterwards.
 3. By the person in charge of a location where private-home day care is provided before the child is placed at that location and at least annually afterwards.

**LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE
36.1(1), (2), (3)
(cont'd)**

4. By volunteers and students who will be providing care or guidance at a premises where private-home day care is provided before they begin providing that care or guidance and at least annually afterwards.
5. By persons who are ordinarily residents of the premises where private-home day care is provided before the child is placed at that location and at least annually afterwards.

- (3) In this section,
“anaphylaxis” means a severe systemic allergic reaction which can be fatal; resulting in circulatory collapse or shock, and “anaphylactic” has a corresponding meaning.

INTENT

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction and can be life-threatening. The allergy may be related to food, insect stings, medicine, latex, exercise etc. The anaphylaxis policy is intended to help support the needs of a child with a severe allergy and provide information on anaphylaxis and awareness to parents, staff, students and visitors at the day nursery.

This provision aligns with *Sabrina's Law, 2005* legislation which came into effect on January 1, 2006, requiring all district school boards and school authorities in Ontario to develop an anaphylactic policy.

INDICATORS

Indicator Type: Documentation

1. The day nursery has a written anaphylactic policy that includes,
 - a strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents
 - a communication plan for the provision of information on life-threatening allergies, including anaphylactic allergies
 - an individual plan that includes an emergency procedure for each child that has an anaphylactic allergy
 - training from a physician or a parent/guardian on procedures to be followed if a child has an anaphylactic reaction.

**INDICATORS
(cont'd)**

2. A sample of children's files confirms that for each child with an anaphylactic allergy, there is an individual plan including the emergency procedures to be followed in the event the child has as anaphylactic reaction.
3. A sample of employee, student and volunteer files confirms the anaphylactic policy, and the child's individual plan including the emergency procedure has been reviewed with:
 - all employees prior to employment and annually afterwards
 - students and volunteers before they begin providing care or guidance and at least annually afterwards
4. There is confirmation on file that day nursery staff, students and volunteers have received training from a physician or a parent on procedures to be followed if a child with a severe allergy has an anaphylactic reaction.

Indicator Type: Interview (Operator)

1. The supervisor states whether there is an enrolled child with an anaphylactic allergy and explains the emergency procedure to be followed if the child has an anaphylactic reaction.
2. The operator states that the anaphylactic policy is reviewed with parents prior to enrollment of their child at the day nursery.

**SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS****36.1(1) Anaphylactic Policy:**

At a minimum, the anaphylactic policy will include:

1. **Strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents**

The strategy includes a statement that indicates,

- how the day nursery operator will reduce the risk of exposure in the day nursery setting to anaphylactic causative agents -these may include foods or causative agents (e.g. latex, fabrics, medicines, chemicals. etc.) that commonly produce allergic reactions

**SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS
(cont'd)**

- if certain foods will be avoided on the menu and in materials/foods that may be used for craft and sensory programming, depending on the allergies of the children attending the centre
- that the list will be revised as necessary depending on the life threatening allergies of the children enrolled.

2. Communication plan

The communication plan identifies how the operator will:

- provide general information on life-threatening allergies, including anaphylactic allergies, to day nursery staff, parents, students and volunteers
- obtain information from parents about their child's medical condition, including whether children are at risk of anaphylaxis
- advise parents, day nursery staff, students, and volunteers that there are children attending the centre who are at risk for potentially life-threatening allergies and the foods and causative agents to be avoided
- identify the mechanism to review the strategies intended to reduce the risk of exposure to life threatening allergies
- post a list of known allergies of enrolled children in food preparation, eating areas and activity rooms
- advise the day nursery caterer (where day care food is catered) of the foods/causative agents not to be used in food prepared for the day nursery and appropriate food substitutes to be provided.

3. Development of a child's individual plan and emergency procedure

The parent/guardian and physician of an enrolled child with an anaphylactic allergy are required to provide input on the child's individual plan, including the emergency procedure that includes:

**SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS
(cont'd)**

- a description of the child's allergy
- monitoring and avoidance strategies
- signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic allergy
- action to be taken by day nursery staff in the event the child has an anaphylactic reaction
- parent/guardian consent that allows the day nursery staff to administer the allergy medication in the event their child has an anaphylactic reaction (see section 37(d))
- emergency contact information (parent/ guardian /emergency services) (see section 48(1)(d)).

The operator will review the child's individual plan, including the emergency procedure to be followed if the child has an anaphylactic reaction with day nursery staff, students and volunteers.

Parents are to advise the day care operator if their child develops an allergy and requires medication, of any change to the child's individual plan or treatment or if their child has outgrown an allergy and no longer requires medication.

4. Training

Where a child has an anaphylactic allergy, day nursery staff, students and volunteers are provided with training from a physician or a parent on the procedures to be followed in the event of a child having an anaphylactic reaction, including how to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and administer medication.

Other considerations:

- Day nursery operators may allow children to carry their own asthma medication or emergency allergy medication in accordance with the agency's medication administration policy. The parent's permission is required for the child to self-administer allergy medication. A copy is to be on file. (see section 37(2)).

**SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS
(cont'd)**

- Day nursery staff should confirm that an enrolled child who is permitted to carry their own asthma medication or emergency allergy medication has the required medication in their possession prior to leaving the day nursery (e.g. school, field trips, etc.).
- Where the child does not self-administer their allergy medication, the day nursery staff will have the allergy medication accessible and taken on field trips.

**BEST PRACTICE
RECOMMENDATIONS
WHEN AN ENROLLED
CHILD HAS AN
ANAPHYLACTIC
ALLERGY**

Epinephrine should be kept in locations where it is easily accessible to staff. These locations should be labeled and known to day nursery staff.

Day nursery staff may provide learning opportunities for older children about foods/causative agents that are not permitted in the day nursery.

Additional information on anaphylaxis can be obtained through Health Canada web-site at:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/med/allerg_e.html.