

Aim

In order to have a successful department and create a safe working environment for our students it is imperative that all members of the faculty are clear about the school/department procedures and understand the severity of allergies and anaphylactic shock. Staff need to make sure they follow this policy when dealing with a student with an allergic reaction and administering any medication (Epi-pens) which students may need.

Definition of Allergies

Allergies are abnormal reactions of the immune system that occur in response to otherwise harmless substances. Allergies could be known by the sufferer or it could be the first time that they have had symptoms.

Objectives

All DT staff at Welling School should:

- ✳ Know the symptoms of allergies (see symptoms below)
- ✳ Know the school's and department's procedure of dealing with medication and anaphylactic shock.
- ✳ Know of and record students' allergies in staff planner.
- ✳ Have access to and have read students' Health Care plan sheet.
- ✳ Make sure that all precautions are made to prevent any sufferer from coming into contact with the known allergen.

Common Causes

There are more than 160 foods that can cause allergic reactions in people with food allergies. The eight most allergenic foods are peanuts, tree nuts (e.g. almonds, walnuts, cashews, Brazils), white fish (bass, cod), shellfish, milk, wheat, soya and eggs (including boxes they came in).

Non-food causes include wasp or bee stings, natural latex (rubber), penicillin or any other drug or injection. In some people exercise can trigger a severe reaction - either on its own or in combination with other factors such as food or drugs (e.g. aspirin).

Symptoms

There is a wide range of symptoms from food allergies, including some, such as sickness and diarrhoea and abdominal cramp, similar to the symptoms of food poisoning.

Other allergic reactions include:

- ✳ Generalised flushing of the skin
- ✳ Rash anywhere on the body
- ✳ Sense of impending doom
- ✳ Alterations in heart rate
- ✳ Severe asthma

Severe reactions caused mainly by wasp/bee stings and nuts are described as **anaphylactic shock**, this is life threatening. The symptoms may start with a mild reaction but can lead to:

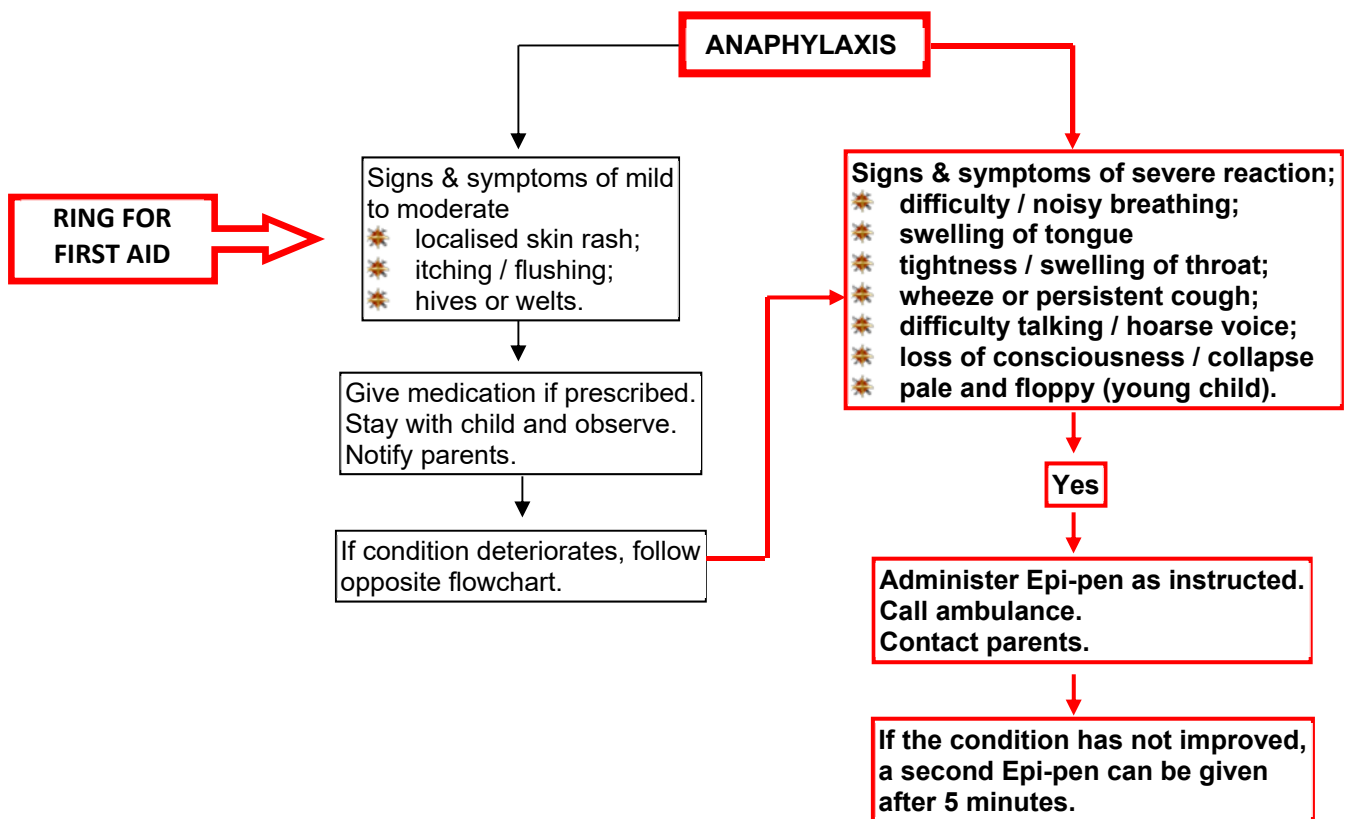
- ✳ Swelling in the throat
- ✳ Difficulty in breathing
- ✳ Dramatic drop in blood pressure
- ✳ Collapse and unconsciousness

An individual would not necessarily experience all of these symptoms

Prevention

If a student has a known allergy then staff must not use food or ingredients containing that allergen in class. However, it is important that we also do not state we are an “allergen free zone” (i.e. nut free) as this cannot be guaranteed. However, it has been decided not to use *any* nut products or derivatives e.g. sesame oil in the department, in order to avoid contamination of equipment.

School / Department procedure



ALWAYS ENSURE A FIRST AIDER IS PRESENT

Complete incident form.

All DT staff must also attend the school's and external training on anaphylactic shock and how to administer medication through EpiPen. Any student that has been given medication must be sent to hospital for further treatment.

Staff Planner

Staff need to make sure that any relevant medical information is noted in their planner and that this information is used to make sure that any known allergens are not used in lessons. If for any reason it is not possible to exclude a known allergen, a detailed risk assessment must be carried out and given to HOF for approval 2 days prior to the lesson.

Medical Alert Handbook

The school completes the Medical Alert Handbook. This will hold relevant information about the student's allergy and any precautionary measures that the departmental staff will need to follow. Staff are expected to be familiar with this information.

Use of DT facilities by non DT specialist.

No member of staff without the relevant training will be allowed to use any of the DT facilities unless a member of staff with the correct training is present.

For further information - <http://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>