

East Longmeadow Public Schools

Life-Threatening Allergy Policy

It is the policy of the East Longmeadow Public School Committee to set age-appropriate guidelines for students and schools within the East Longmeadow system that minimize the risk for children with life-threatening allergies (LTA). The risk of accidental exposure to foods/allergens may be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for students with life-threatening allergies.

Such guidelines shall include: building-based general medical emergency plans, life-threatening allergy emergency plans, individual health care plans for all students diagnosed with LTA, appropriate training of staff, availability of on-site medical equipment for quick response to life-threatening allergic reactions, and such other guidelines that will ensure that students with LTAs can participate in school activities without undue fear or harm from exposure to life-threatening food/ allergens.

It is the School Committee's expectation that specific building based guidelines/actions will take into account the health needs and well being of all children without discrimination or isolation of any child. It is the School Committee's belief that education and open, informative communication are vital for the creation of an environment with reduced risks for all students and their families. In order to assist children with LTAs to assume more individual responsibility for maintaining their safety as they grow, it is the policy of the School Committee that the guidelines shift as children advance through the primary grades and through secondary school.

Although not every circumstance that may develop can be anticipated, in an emergency situation, the interventions/guidelines in place are based on medically accurate information and evidence-based practices and experience.

References:

- **Managing Life Threatening Allergies in Schools. Massachusetts Department of Education and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2002.**
- **Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network: <http://www.foodallergy.org>**