

## **River Montessori Charter School**

### **Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Policy**

River Montessori Charter School is committed to providing a safe environment for all students. Recognizing the increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies among school age populations, the RMCS Board understands the importance of reducing the risk of accidental exposure to allergens in the school setting. Therefore, RMCS is committed to working in cooperation with parents/guardians, students, and physicians/health care professionals, to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. The focus of allergy management at RMCS shall be on prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response.

We direct administration to develop guidelines to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis at River Montessori Charter School. These guidelines will address parental/guardian obligations, school responsibilities, and student responsibilities. It will include the creation of a food allergy management plan for each such child that focuses on a) prevention or avoidance of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents, b) information and awareness, and c) an appropriate response should an emergency occur. The management plan should strike a balance between the health, social normalcy and safety needs of the individual student with life-threatening food allergies and the education, health and safety needs of all students.

The process includes educating other students about the dangers and sending written notification to all families in a classroom/or to the entire School community when it comes to the School's attention that a child has a severe allergy.

#### **RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:**

##### **Family's Responsibility**

- Notify the school of the child's allergies.
- Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school including in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in after-care programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on field trips, as well as an Emergency Plan.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician. Include a photo of the child on written form.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration.

- Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including:
  - \* safe and unsafe foods
  - \* strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods
  - \* symptoms of allergic reactions
  - \* how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
  - \* how to read food labels (age appropriate)
- Review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide emergency contact information.

### **School's Responsibility**

- Administer food allergy management training which includes training in the administration of epinephrine (as per education code section 49414) and MDI before new staff are allowed to care for children with severe anaphylactic allergic responses.
- Review the health records and emergency cards submitted by parents and physicians to the school.
- Include food-allergic students in school activities. Students should not be excluded from school activities solely based on their food allergy.
- Identify a core team of, but not limited to, school nurse, teacher, principal to work with parents/guardians and the student (age appropriate) to establish a food allergy management plan. Changes to the plan should be made with core team participation.
- Assure that all staff who interact with the student on a regular basis understands food allergy, can recognize symptoms, knows what to do in an emergency, and works to eliminate the use of food allergens in educational tools, arts and crafts projects, or community sharing.
- Coordinate with the school nurse to be sure medications are appropriately stored, and be sure that an emergency kit is available that contains a physician's standing order for epinephrine. Students should be allowed to carry their own epinephrine, if age appropriate after approval from the student's physician/clinic, parent/guardian and school nurse, and allowed by state or local regulations.
- Designate school personnel who are properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.

- Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location.
- Review policies/prevention plan with the core team members, parents/guardians, student (age appropriate), and physician after a reaction has occurred.
- Discuss field trips with the family of the food-allergic child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.
- Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student.
- Take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously.

### **Student's Responsibility**

- Should not trade food with others.
- Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.

Adopted: September 14, 2010

Amended: