

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY

It is the policy of the Westwood School Committee to set age-appropriate guidelines for students and schools within the Westwood 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. The Westwood School District will establish a school-wide prevention and emergency plan for identifying and addressing student life-threatening allergic (LTA) reactions. The school district shall:

- Develop and implement protocols to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose LTA reactions.
- Educate all members of the school community on management of student LTA allergies.
- Plan for the needs of students with life-threatening allergies.

The Westwood School District is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. Given the increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies among school populations, the district is committed to working with parents, students and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. 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. The focus of allergy management shall be on prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response.

Reference: MA Dept. Public Health Reg. 105 CMR 210.000 to include appendix K, CMR 10.000

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>

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