

Date: Thu, 11 Jun 2009

Subject: **General Anaphylactic Shock Procedures** (long)

To: Liberal Religious Educators Association Members

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Here is the plan from First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. It has served us well this year. On a side note, the week after we implemented this plan, I personally went into anaphylactic shock while at church after inadvertently ingesting mushrooms (not labeled as an ingredient) the ambulance came; I was rushed to the hospital and spent the day there. And yes, I did have an epi-pen on hand, and now all of the staff knows how to use it! The child in our program who has the peanut allergy wears a backpack with his epi-pens in it. He is in First Grade.

~Beryl Aschenberg

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Religious Education Program - Food Allergy Management Plan

The Children's RE Program at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee has a number of children who have allergies to various foods. Allergic reactions can vary from a relatively minor reaction of itchy, watery eyes to a reaction that is life threatening. To avoid allergic reactions to foods, the Religious Education program has adopted the following practices. While the staff and volunteers will do our best to carry out these food allergy management practices, nevertheless, it must be recognized that no plan is foolproof or can be guaranteed to be observed 100% of the time.

1. All families are asked to give the RE Program staff written information on any food allergies that their child has. This information will then be posted in the classroom. Families are asked to complete a Food Allergy Action Plan form, including a picture, so that people working with their child can be alerted as to the allergy and specific action to be taken should an allergic reaction occur.

2. Allergic reactions, specifically to peanuts and tree nuts, can cause a life-threatening (anaphylactic) reaction for individuals. The RE Program will not intentionally serve any product containing peanuts or tree nuts in any of our classes where allergies have been reported. When a specific classroom has a child enrolled with a peanut/ tree nut allergy, parents and volunteers will be advised that the room is a peanut free zone, and children will be asked to wash hands and faces before entering. (Wipes will be available outside the classrooms for this purpose.) This is to help ensure that no residue from food containing peanut product gets on tables, counters or utensils.

3. Children with anaphylactic reactions to foods should have an Epi-pen with them at all times.
4. Families of children with life threatening allergies are asked to choose the class snacks at the beginning of the class period, or to bring in acceptable snacks to share. Families are asked to bring in their own snacks for their child when none of the church-provided snacks meet the individual health needs of a child.
5. Food preparation tables and counters are to be sanitized prior to preparing and eating foods. In a peanut free zone volunteers will be asked to sanitize table surfaces at the beginning of the class.
6. Foods that are brought from home to share with others (birthday treat, snack to share) should be fruits and vegetables or food that is commercially prepared and in factory-sealed containers with the ingredients listed on the container (NAEYC accreditation).
7. Events such as family potlucks that have foods that are not supplied by the church are not monitored for allergens. Parents are responsible for monitoring foods eaten by their children at these events.
8. Children with known allergies will have their names and pictures posted in both their particular classroom and the snack supply cupboard.
9. The Children's RE Committee will offer training to volunteers and staff as to the proper use of an Epi-pen when the need arises due to a reported allergy. All volunteers will be invited to the training.
10. When an Epi-pen is utilized while a child is at church, volunteers and staff will be required to call 911. Phones are located in the RE Offices, the RE Alcove, and the Nursery. Parents will be notified after emergency procedures have taken place.