

## Severe Allergy Actions for Transportation Staff

**Did you know?** A food allergy is an adverse reaction that occurs soon after exposure to a certain food. In a typical bus of 25 students, at least one child is likely to have food allergies. Food allergy reactions can be very serious and even cause death.

**Get Trained!** Contact the school nurse to find out which students on your bus have food allergies and review their emergency care plans (provided by the nurse). Share emergency plans with substitute bus drivers and attendants. <https://www.epipen.com/about-epipen/how-to-use-epipen>

**Learn about Food Allergies:** A food allergy is an adverse reaction that occurs soon after exposure to a certain food. Any food can cause a food allergy, but most are caused by milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, peanuts, and tree nuts. A severe life-threatening allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis.

**Recognize Food Allergy Symptoms:** Food allergy symptoms can include the following:

- Swollen lips, tongue or eyes
- Itchiness, rash or hives
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Congestion, hoarse voice, trouble swallowing
- Wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Dizziness, fainting or loss of consciousness
- Mood change or confusion

**Know how to respond to food allergy emergencies!** The recommended first-line treatment for anaphylaxis is the prompt use of an injectable medication called epinephrine.

- If you suspect a severe food allergy reaction, or anaphylaxis stay calm and pull over safely. Keep calm and reassure other people who may be nearby.
- Contact dispatch (or have second person if able) while pulling over if able.
- **Take immediate action:** Know where the student keeps their epinephrine auto injector (as outlined in the Student's Healthcare Plan or Permission to Self Carry Form provided by the nurse) and be ready to administer.
- **Call 911 (EMS) to ask for emergency transportation for any student showing signs of anaphylaxis.**
- Contact dispatch of your actions and the need for someone to contact the student's parents.
- REMEMBER: When in doubt it is better to administer the epinephrine auto injector and the student not need it rather than the student need the injection and not receive it. Contact the school nurse to make aware anytime epinephrine has been administered to a student after the student is transported.

**Help prevent food allergy emergencies!** Enforce rules that prohibit eating and drinking on the school bus. Do not give food or candy to students. Follow cleaning procedures for bus surfaces, such as seats and handrails.

**Support a healthy and safe transportation.** Make sure your radios or phones are working properly. Enforce no eating rules on buses (unless for Students with Diabetes). Do not give food or candy to students. Encourage students to treat each other with kindness and respect. Report all cases of bullying to the school administrator.

Student Name

Med/Location

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_