



Collingwood Medical Alert Conditions Policy

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

Collingwood School seeks to provide a level of supervision and care that will secure the safety and wellbeing of students with life threatening medical problems.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to students and their families, Collingwood faculty and staff and nurses of the Collingwood Health Centre.

3.0 PURPOSE

- To provide Collingwood School staff, parents and students with guidelines for the development of an emergency medical plan for students who have medical alert conditions
- To put procedures in place that minimizes the risk for these students,
- To empower our school community to provide emergency lifesaving treatment in the event of an emergency

4.0 DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA

A medical alert condition: is defined as a medically diagnosed, potentially life- threatening health condition that may require emergency medical care while at school.

Medical Alert Conditions Include	Medical Alert Conditions Do not include
Anaphylaxis: past history of a severe allergic reaction/s which required or may require emergency care and use of adrenalin (e.g., severe insect bite or food allergy – i.e. peanuts).	Mild allergies that do not require urgent intervention or allergies to medications which can be avoided at school.
Severe asthma: a past history of episodes requiring immediate medical treatment; include those children who may need assistance using inhalant medications. Student has been hospitalized for asthma over past year.	Controlled, stable asthma (needs rescue inhaler less than once/week); stable – no hospitalizations within last 2 years.
Blood clotting disorders that require immediate medical care in the event of injury (e.g., hemophilia).	Students with a diagnosed weakened immunity due to illness or medications (e.g. chemotherapy). Note: It is important that school staff is aware of immune-compromised students in case there is a communicable disease outbreak, but these students are not included on the medical alert list.



Diabetes	
Epilepsy / Seizure disorder: ongoing, requiring intervention	One time seizure over one year ago.
Serious heart conditions that may require emergency intervention.	
Special needs students: only if they have a potentially life-threatening condition or if they are likely to need emergency support for current health state (seizures, airway management, complex cardiac problems).	Attention Deficit/Hyperactive Disorders Behavioral issues

Anaphylaxis: is a severe life threatening allergic reaction caused by exposure to a trigger (allergen)
Common allergen triggers are foods (e.g. nuts, milk, eggs, shellfish), insect stings, medications, exercise, and latex rubber.

Adrenaline / Epinephrine (Epi-pen): The emergency condition of anaphylaxis is treated with an injection of adrenaline, also known as epinephrine. People who are prone to anaphylaxis because of food or insect allergies carry an "Epi-pen" containing adrenaline in a hypodermic needle

Asthma: is a chronic inflammation of the airways. It causes shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, coughing and wheezing. The symptoms can vary from person to person. The severity and duration of each flare up of symptoms can vary for a person. Allergic or non-allergic triggers may cause symptoms.

Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2):

Type 1 Diabetes is usually the one diagnosed in children. It occurs when the pancreas is unable to produce insulin, which is essential for ensuring that the body's energy needs are met. This type of diabetes requires daily insulin injections and close monitoring of blood glucose levels. Meals, snacks and exercise are also very important in maintaining balance of blood glucose levels.

Type 2 diabetes usually develops in adulthood; however there are an increasing number of children being diagnosed. It occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body does not effectively use the insulin that is produced.

Epilepsy: is a neurological condition that makes people susceptible to seizures. Seizures are changes in sensation, awareness, or behavior brought about by a brief electrical disturbance in the brain. These seizures vary from a momentary disruption of the senses to short periods of unconscious or staring spells to convulsions.

Hemophilia: is a genetic bleeding disorder that prevents blood from forming an effective clot. It is found almost exclusively in men. It is characterized by delayed blood clotting and difficulty in controlling hemorrhage, even after minor injury.

Emergency Medication: refers to any prescribed medication as well as emergency food and juice for diabetic students.



5.0 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibility for ensuring a safe school environment is with the parents, student and school staff.

5.1 Responsibility of Parent/Guardian

- i. Inform the school of any health condition a child has which may necessitate emergency care during school hours by **completing a Medical Alert Information Sheet; have Medical Alert Information Sheet signed by physician.**
- ii. Review medical alert information with school Nurse annually and complete Medical Alert Sheet annually.
- iii. Notify school Nurse of any changes in the student's health status during the school year.
- iv. Provide **emergency medication** to school as prescribed by physician.
- v. Renew the supply of emergency medication when depleted or expired.
- vi. Provide the student with a medical alert identification bracelet/necklace.
- vii. Ensure that the student carries auto injector on person while at school or on field trips.
- viii. Participate in educating staff/students regarding their child's medical alert condition.

5.2 Responsibility of Student

- i. Inform school staff and friends of medical alert condition.
- ii. Wear a medical alert identification bracelet/necklace.
- iii. Inform school Nurse, staff or friends if feeling unwell.
- iv. Participate in self-care activities appropriate for age developmentally and physically
- v. Carries auto injector on person at all times when reaches an age he/she is able to do so
- vi. Avoid allergy triggers or other potentially harmful situations.
- vii. Ensure emergency medication accompanies him/her on field trips



5.3 Responsibility of Administration / School Nurse

- i. Request Medical information at the time of registration and annually thereafter.
- ii. Compile a medical alert list.
- iii. Ensure school Faculty and staff is aware of medical alert students by distributing medical alert list.
- iv. Ensure a delegate is available to respond to students in case of emergency; review annually. Ensure all staff are aware of who the delegate is.
- v. Ensure the student has their own emergency medication with him/her at all times and on field trips.
- vi. Include transportation of emergency care plans and medications in the emergency evacuation plan.
- vii. Follow-up with parents who do not complete proper paperwork and/or provide emergency medication
- viii. Promote the parent/guardian's role in providing up-dated health information to school staff.
- ix. Support the school community in providing a safe environment for children who may require emergency medical management at school. This includes providing information/resources about specific medical conditions, health education on emergency procedures, use of medications and consultation regarding emergency medical management.