



Food Allergies

Four-year-old died at school due to his peanut allergy despite it's 'nut-free policy' and the teacher stabbed the EpiPen into her own hand instead of of the child.

You never know when it can happen to you.... Be prepared and save a child's life!

Did you know?

- Children attending day care and preschool with food allergies are at highest risk of an allergic reaction
- More than 60% of allergic reactions at school happen in the day care and preschool setting
- Every 3 minutes a food allergy reaction sends a person to the emergency room
- The number of people who have food allergies is growing, increasing 50% among children
- It now affects 1 in 13 children

Questions to think about:

- Would you know what to do if a child had a severe allergic reaction?
- Would you or your staff know how to recognize and respond to a child experiencing an allergic reaction?
- Would or your staff be able to comfortably and accurately administer an epinephrine auto-injector?
- Is you programs approved to administer medications or do only administer emergency medications?

If your programs only administers emergency medications, these medications only include epinephrine auto-injector devices, diphenhydramine (Benadryl) when prescribed for use in combination with the epinephrine auto-injector, asthma inhalers, or nebulizers.

There are numerous misconceptions regarding the administration of emergency medications. It has been reported that many programs are not in compliance with the regulations and the requirements that must be met.

Caring for children with allergies, and asthma that may require the administration of medication is a serious responsibility.

You want to ensure the health and safety of children in your care, especially if they may require emergency medication.

Having the medication in the program will not help a child if you do not know why, where, when, or how to administer the medication.

313 Central Park Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583
914.761.3456 Fax 914.761.1957 childcare@cccwny.org Website: ChildCareWestchester.org
Member Agency – United Way of Westchester and Putnam, Inc.



If your program is not approved to administer medication and you care for children with special health care needs that may require the administration of emergency medication, it is highly recommended that you attend the **"Emergency Medication Administration Including Stock Epinephrine Auto-Injectors"** Training or attending the **Medication Administration Training (MAT)**. You will learn vital information regarding the care of children with allergies and asthma that require emergency medication.

Benefits of attending a MAT Course:

- Earn 8 hours of training covering different topics areas
- Receive a 3 year certificate
- \$100 Rebate available so end cost for the training is \$50
- Learning important information about allergies & asthma
- Knowing when & how to correctly administer an epinephrine auto-injector & asthma medication

Benefits for the Emergency Medication Administration training for Programs that want to:

- Be able to stock non-child specific epinephrine auto-injectors
- Review information regarding the care of children with asthma and allergies
- Review the necessary/required parent permissions and health care provider instructions
- Receive direct instruction on how to administer emergency medication
- Obtain not only the necessary paperwork, but also use full resources

OCFS and Medication Administration

The attached Dear Director & Dear Provider Letter from NYS Office of Children and Family Services includes information regarding emergency medication. The letter also notes that the authorization to administer medication to children in care is a benefit to parents and children, and a marketing plus for programs. It also provides information about Medication Administration Training.

The Council's Resource and Referral Department has reported a significant increase in the calls from parents requesting programs that are approved to administer medications.

Click below to read – **Dear Provider Letter:**

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letterstoproviders/2015/October%20Provider.pdf>

Click below to read – **Dear Director Letter:**

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letterstoproviders/2015/October%20Director.pdf>

Click below to read – **MAT Brochure:**

https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/downloadfiles/MAT/MAT_TRIFOLD_WEB.pdf

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Contact the Health Services Department to learn more about the MAT Course, emergency medication, and the benefits of becoming approved to administer medication.