

Anaphylaxis policy document

Roles and Responsibilities

Anaphylaxis management is a shared responsibility that includes allergic children, their parents/guardians, camp staff and the entire camp community.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians should make every effort to teach their allergic children to self-protect.

Parents/guardians:

- Must educate child on avoidance strategies and what to do at camp in the event of accidental exposure
- Are responsible for informing camp about the child's allergies, updating any changes, and providing the child/camp with an epinephrine auto-injector which is not expired.
- Must complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan which has the child's photograph and allergy information, emergency contact numbers, emergency protocol, signature of a parent/guardian and, if required, the signature of the child's physician giving consent which allows camp staff to use an epinephrine auto-injector when they consider it necessary in an allergic emergency.
- For food-allergic children, should meet with camp administration staff to inquire about allergen management policies and menu items.

Children at Risk

Allergic campers who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis are required to:

- Have an auto-injector with their name on it, kept in a readily accessible location which is **unlocked**.
- Carry their own auto-injector when age-appropriate (determined in child's Individual Plan)
- Know how to use their auto-injector **before** they come to camp.
- Inform someone (preferably an adult) immediately after accidental exposure to an allergen or as soon as symptoms occur

Allergic campers who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis should:

- Wear medical identification, such as a MedicAlert bracelet which clearly identifies their allergy.

Food-allergic campers who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis should:

- Not share food or utensils
- Refrain from eating camp provided food if they do not have their auto-injector with them.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after meals

Camp Community

It is a responsibility of the camp community to support a safe and informed environment when hosting a child with an anaphylaxis allergy.

All camp staff (including counsellors, administration, food service and maintenance):

- Are required to be aware of children who have an allergy that may trigger an anaphylactic reaction.
- Should be prepared to treat an anaphylactic reaction in accordance with the emergency protocol
- Counsellors are required to always carry camper information with them when they are away from the main lodge.

Camp administration must:

- Collect a completed Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan and consult with parent/guardian to develop an individual plan for the camper.
- Make sure information about a camper with life-threatening allergies is readily available.
- Consult with parent before posting the child's AEP in staff area
- Communicate to all camp parents if there is a camper with life-threatening allergies to ensure that appropriate considerations are made when sending food or other potentially harmful items to camp.
- Ensure proper anaphylaxis training (based on recommendations from the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology) for camp staff before the start of programs

Policies

1. Strategies that reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents at camp

Food Agents

Batawa Summer Day Camp adopts an allergy-aware policy when it comes to food allergies. Batawa Ski Hill will do its best to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic inducing food allergens by:

Working with parent and camper to review camp menu, better understand their specific allergies and create an individual plan.

Communicating with the rest of the parent community with guidelines about packing snacks for their children and resources on how they can help to educate their campers about severe food allergies before they come to camp.

Adopting a “No-Sharing Policy” of snacks and lunches between campers when appropriate

Supervising all meal and snack times with appropriate camper to counsellor ratio

Requiring hand washing before and after meals

Requiring continuous food-label reading by all food service staff – even for ingredients that are used on a regular basis

Avoiding cross-contamination by maintaining a high standard of food preparation practices based on Ontario Public Health [Food Handler Guidelines](#)

Maintaining a practice of cleaning and sanitizing food service and consumption areas, using suitable products, as outlined by Ontario Public Health guidelines

Environmental Agents

The emphasis in programming and activities at Batawa Summer Day Camps is outdoor recreation based, and therefore environmental allergens that could cause an anaphylactic response (such as a bee sting) are an inherent risk. Batawa Ski Hill will do its best to mitigate the exposure to these hazards by:

Requiring daily Quality Control Checks in well used program areas for indications of potential hazards

Continuous removal of garbage bags and keeping garbage cans covered with tightly fitted lids in outdoor play areas

Consider restricting eating areas, allowing for closer supervision and helping to reduce the prevalence of stinging insects

Have insect nests professionally relocated or destroyed, as appropriate

Campers who are allergic to stinging insects are encouraged to:

- Always carry an epinephrine auto-injector with them during insect season
- Know the areas where stinging insects gather such as gardens, fruit trees, and garbage cans
- Wear light colours (insects are attracted to bright ones) and avoid loose flowing garments or hair that could entrap an insect (tie hair back)
- Wear shoes instead of sandals
- Avoid substances that attract insects, e.g. perfumes or highly scented sunscreens, lip balms, and deodorants
- Avoid drinking from cans or bottles where insects can hide. Use a straw if drinking non-water beverages outside

Other Allergens

Reactions to medication, exercise, latex and unknown causes (i.e. idiopathic) are rare at camp but not unheard of. Care of campers with these allergies is individualized based on discussions amongst parents, and camp personnel. The same emergency protocol, as described in this document, would apply.

2. Communication Plan

Registration – AEP

Individual Plan

Communication to staff

Communication to parent community

Communication to campers

Updates

2. Training

- a. Individuals who have been prescribed an epinephrine auto-injector – and their parents and caregivers – should know how to use it **before** an emergency arises.
- b. **All** individuals who are in regular contact with children at risk of anaphylaxis should participate in training sessions. Regular training on dealing with life-threatening allergies for all employees and others who are in direct contact with campers on a regular basis if provided.
- c. A requirement that all camp counsellors are required to hold a valid First Aid and CPR certification

3. Individual Plan

- a. A requirement that camp staff and parents develop an individual plan for each camper who has an anaphylactic allergy.

4. Information

- a. A requirement that camp maintain a file for each anaphylactic camper of current treatment and other information, including a copy of any prescriptions and instructions from the camper's physician or nurse, and parents, and a current emergency contact list.