

The South Slave Divisional Education Council is committed to the principle of protecting the health and safety of students, employees and others who visit our school and Council facilities. The reported increasing prevalence of serious communicable diseases such as AIDS¹ and pandemic influenza², and children born with anaphylaxis³, suggests the need for policy and guidelines for planned support and care of students both inside and outside the school environment. Occupation health and safety (OH&S) requirements are also on the rise.

While recognizing that no school can eliminate all risks relating to medical alert conditions, allergens, viruses and personal safety, the intent of this policy is to reasonably minimize risks and maintain a safe school climate for all students and staff.

The Council acknowledges a duty of schools, in cooperation and with support of stakeholders in the school community, to provide a quality education to children while exercising reasonable care and effort in maintaining such health and safety of staff and students within our school facilities and during school sponsored events.

The Council requires compliance with territorial legislation and regulations and encourages health and safety consciousness with employees, students and education stakeholders. Accordingly, the school principal and staff, students, parents, local Health authorities, and other potential stakeholders are jointly responsible for taking reasonable precautions to minimize health and safety emergencies within the school environment.

REGULATIONS

- 1) The parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for communicating information about communicable diseases (such as influenza, head lice, meningitis, HIV/AIDS, etc) and medical alert conditions (such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc) of their child to the school principal and the local Health authority:
 - a) Parents of students with medical conditions are expected to disclose the medical condition of the student upon registration in the school, or immediately upon identification of the medical condition,
 - b) Parents of students with serious medical conditions are expected to co-operate with the school staff in the accommodation process. A prescriptive process delineating expected

¹ When the body's immune system becomes severely damaged by HIV, HIV-positive people can develop the deadly Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

² Certain kinds of influenza (flu) viruses periodically cause worldwide epidemics, or pandemics, with high rates of illness and potentially death.

³ Anaphylactic shock is a severe allergic reaction that can lead to rapid death if untreated. It can occur as a result of exposure to only minute amounts of an allergen being present in an environment. Common allergens include food (the most common being peanuts), insect venom, medications, latex and rarely, exercise.)

roles and responsibilities for emergency medical alert conditions is found in the *SSDEC's Medical Alert Condition Guidelines* in the principal's *Senior Leadership Team Manual*.

- 2) Principals and supervisors have the responsibility to ensure compliance with all standards of the *NWT Safety Act* and all policies and regulations regulating health and safety issues. To meet obligations principals / supervisors are required to provide the necessary equipment, materials, orientation, training, and supervision, including:
 - a) Ensure that at one or more staff members are certified in *standard level first aid* – (see regulations for the appropriate to the number of trained staff are required on site)
 - b) Ensure that, where applicable, facilities are equipped with standard emergency first aid supplies, appropriate to the number of staff on site (see regulations)
 - c) establishing a *Health and Safety Committee* at each site to assist with the identification and correction of hazards
 - d) encouraging all staff members to take reasonable precautions and corrective action to prevent and report all workplace mishaps

- 3) The principal and the school staff have a responsibility to endeavor to maintain the safety and well-being of students during school hours and during after-school activities organized by the school. Principals will take reasonable precautions to utilize proper techniques and procedures including but not limited to the following:
 - a) Implement response protocols, in conjunction with parents, students, and public Health representatives immediately upon notification of students identified with communicable diseases (such as influenza, head lice, meningitis, HIV/AIDS, etc) and medical alert conditions (such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc), and other conditions which might require emergency care:
 - i) A prescriptive process delineating expected roles and responsibilities for emergency medical conditions is found in the *SSDEC's Medical Alert Condition Guidelines* in the principal's *Senior Leadership Team Manual*.
 - b) Review school emergency procedures for students with medical alert conditions annually with staff, parents and public health officials. In the event of an emergency response, an immediate evaluation of the procedure should be undertaken.

Reference: *Education Act*, Section 69
NWT Safety Act, Section 4, and 25 (j) and Regulations –
<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/legislation/#gn-filebrowse-0:/s/safety/>
GNWT Occupational Health and Safety Policy
<https://my.hr.gov.nt.ca/health-safety>
SSDEC Policy IHCD - Administering Medication to Students
SSDEC Medical Alert Condition Guidelines
Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards, Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) 2001
<http://www.safe4kids.ca/content/schools/anaphylaxis_eng.pdf>

Date: November 2006

Revised: June 2016