Objectives

- Describe the symptoms of food allergies and life-threatening reactions.
- Identify three ways to prepare for and respond to food allergy emergencies on the school bus.
- Identify three ways to support safe school buses for students with food allergies.
Overview

- The guidelines can help schools manage the risk of food allergies and severe allergic reactions in students.

- School bus drivers and transportation staff can help keep students with food allergies safe during school bus transport.
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.
What can you do?

- **Get trained!**
  - Participate in food allergy training.
  - Ask the school nurse or administrator for information about school food allergy policies.
  - Know which students on your bus have food allergies and review their emergency care plans.
  - Share emergency plans with substitute bus drivers and attendants.
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.
What can you do?

- 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.
What can you do?

- 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.
What can you do?

If you suspect a severe food allergy reaction, or anaphylaxis, take immediate action:

- Know the location of emergency medication and be ready to administer an epinephrine auto-injector if you are a delegated and trained staff member and epinephrine is available.
- Call 911 or the emergency medical system (EMS) to ask for emergency transportation of any student showing signs of anaphylaxis.
- Let the school administrator know your actions and the need for someone to contact the student’s parents.
What can you do?

- 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 your school district’s cleaning procedures for bus surfaces, such as seats and handrails.
What can you do?

- Support a healthy and safe transportation
  - Make sure your radios or phones are working properly.
  - Enforce no eating rules on buses.
  - 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.
Where can you find more information?


Questions ?

[Image of a woman looking up and smiling]
**Resources**


Thank You!