



Medical Conditions Package

Heart Condition Protocol

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Achieving Believing Belonging

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Rationale for Heart Condition Procedures:

The goal is to educate school personnel about heart conditions its causes, symptoms and treatments:

- to prevent sudden cardiac death in students who are not diagnosed with a heart condition and who exhibit possible warning signs;
- in order that a child diagnosed with a heart condition can have the support and accommodations needed in the school setting (or on a school trip) to be safe and successfully participate in their education.

What are Diagnosed Heart Conditions?

Heart disease: Any disorder that affects the heart. Heart disease is synonymous with cardiac disease but not with cardiovascular disease which is any disease of the heart or blood vessels. Heart conditions tend to have structural problems with the way the heart is formed, heart muscle problems or problems with the electrical system of the heart, e.g. cardiac rhythm disorders; congenital heart disease.

Duty of Care:

This Heart Condition protocol for school administrators, teachers and other employees has been developed to meet the requirements of:

Education Act 265 (1): Duties of Principals

j) care of pupils and property – to give assiduous attention to the health and comfort the pupils

Education Act, Regulations: Reg. 298, S20: Duties Of Teachers

g) ensure that all reasonable safety procedures are carried out in courses and activities for which the teacher is responsible

Common Law Duties Owed by Teachers:

To assist or allow a student to seek medical attention as a 'careful parent' would. The board's liability policy provides coverage for employees acting within the scope of their duties with the board. Thus, all school staff who administer first aid to a student who is suffering from anaphylactic emergency within the school or during a school activity, are covered.

Field Trips and Students with Heart Conditions (Day Trips, Overnight Trips, Extensive Trips, Exchange Programs)

- **Process in place to identify students with a heart condition participating** on the trip along with their required medication.
- **Trip travel, site and activities are to be checked for suitability to child's/youth's medical condition.** Prior to the trip organizers should review the activities and location for potential hazards and needed accommodations.
- **Communicate with the child's parents/guardians** during the initial planning stages of the trip informing them of the destination, mode of travel and activities students are to participate in. This will allow parent/guardian to potentially identify or anticipate problems and provide input accordingly. By knowing the trip activities, expectations and accommodations parents will be able to provide an informed decision as to their child's participation.
- For overnight, extensive or exchange programs **parents are to be informed** that they must:
 - Provide adequate supply of medications.

- Provide detailed instructions regarding the use of the medications that include the dose and time of day or indications for the use of medication.
- **Tour operator and/or activity provider needs to be informed** by the trip supervisor of **the number and identity of students with heart condition(s) and of the required accommodations**. The tour operator/or activity provider must guarantee they can accommodate the student's requirements for safe participation.
- **An emergency action plan for the heart condition** must be prepared by the trip supervisor in communication with the parents, and communicated to all staff and volunteers on the trip.
- **Student forms on the trip**– copies of the student's Heart Condition Management Plan are to be taken on the trip. The student's chaperone/staff member should have a copy in addition to the trip organizer.
- **Grouping of student(s)**: student(s) with heart condition is to be assigned to a group with a staff member who is knowledgeable about managing a heart condition emergency.
- **Buddy system**: In situations where the teacher/supervisor is providing 'in the area supervision' teacher is to assign a knowledgeable 'buddy' to the student. The student and a buddy are to be informed of warning signs of trouble and that if they exist, the buddy is to contact the teacher/supervisor/chaperone.
- **Ensure a means of communication** (e.g. cell phone) and/or other modality of communication is to be taken on the trip in case of an emergency. Check ahead of visit what types of communication the visiting site presently has available.
- **Trip supervisor is to meet students with a heart condition and provide the following information:**
 - Students agree to tell trip supervisor:
 - If they anticipate having trouble with their heart condition on the trip
 - When their heart condition is bothering them
 - If the student is feeling unwell, they are not (never) go off alone or remove themselves to a secluded area, like the washroom. Tell a supervising teacher, volunteer or classmate that they are having difficulty and need help