

Merriwood Christian Camp

Life-Threatening Allergy Policy - 2019

CAMPER PARENT MUST MAKE MERRIWOOD TEAM AWARE: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/retreat guest/camper/volunteer to ensure that Merriwood is aware if there is a life-threatening allergy, specifically those that could cause an anaphylactic reaction such as a nut allergy, bee sting allergy, Asian Tiger Mosquito allergy, or other. In our summer camp program, Merriwood will make sure that this information is passed along to the camp counselor or appropriate Merriwood staff.

- Merriwood requires that this policy be completed and signed and in our office no less than two weeks before the camper's arrival to ensure necessary data is in our system, etc.
- During the camp week, it is our policy that those with life threatening allergies will be wear a yellow wristband identifying their allergy to our team member.

ALLERGIC PERSON MUST BE AWARE OF ENVIRONMENT: Those with a life-threatening allergy must be aware that life-threatening, high-risk allergens are present in our camp facility.

- Campers, volunteers, staff members, retreat guests, and all parties present at Merriwood must realize that Merriwood in no way can guarantee that we will be a completely allergy-free environment.
- MCC no longer has peanut butter available for sandwiches. (MCC now offers cold cuts, cheese, and bread available as a substitution if needed.)
- Overnight Campers have opportunity to purchase snacks at the canteen each afternoon and each evening. (Day campers have this opportunity in the afternoon each day as well as at the optional Friday night sleepover.) MCC's canteen does not stock candies and snacks that have peanuts or tree nuts in the regular ingredient listing as part of the recipe. There are also items that say, "may contain nuts." Please feel free to ask for a listing of our canteen items in case you want to direct your child (or their counselor) as to what things your camper may be allowed to have. Otherwise, the camper will need to read the labels (and staff can assist them). The allergic camper must commit to not eating anything that that says, "may contain peanuts," or "manufactured in a facility that also manufactures nuts."
- The allergic guest must also recognize that individual campers, volunteers, and/or staff may bring food supplies into this setting that may contain life-threatening allergens to the allergic person. MCC is not a nut-free facility.
- Concerning bees, wasps, hornets, etc.: The allergic guest must realize that, while we take care of any bee nests we are aware of, we cannot know where any and all bee nests are located and cannot ultimately keep all bees at bay.

AVOIDANCE AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- The person who is allergic must recognize that they are first and foremost responsible for their health and safety and must personally do all they can to avoid allergens that could cause anaphylaxis.
- The allergic must bring two unexpired EpiPens or EpiPen, Jr. to camp with them. The allergic will turn in the first EpiPen or EpiPen, Jr. to the Medication Table at check-in on the first day. This EpiPen will be kept in the first aid room (easily accessible by staff members as well and located in the dining hall building). The other EpiPen or EpiPen, Jr. may be kept on the camper's person, or in the luggage/cabin of the allergic person. (The allergic person should make their summer camp counselor aware of the location of the second EpiPen or EpiPen, Jr.)
- The allergic person must commit to wash their hands with warm water, soap, and paper towel before eating or drinking anything every time, recognizing that hand sanitizers do not remove peanut/nut oils. The allergic person must not share food, drink, utensils, straws, or other such personal items with anyone else. Carelessness on the part of the allergic person will be taken seriously and could be cause for dismissal from camp without refund.
- The allergic person agrees to inform a staff member immediately if they are exposed to any known life-threatening allergies (whether on purpose or accidentally). The allergic person also agrees to inform a staff member immediately even if they think they may have potentially been exposed to the known life-threatening allergy.

ACTION: If there is a suspected or positive exposure to a life-threatening allergen, Merriwood will handle this one of two ways:

1. **If the individual is not having severe difficulty breathing:**
 - We will give correct dosage of Benadryl for the individual's age/weight.
 - We will document the time the Benadryl was given and watch the individual for 4 hours.
 - We will notify the parent/guardian of the possible exposure, to discuss treatment.

Because a reaction can still occur up to four hours later, MCC will discuss with parent/guardian how the individual will be watched for that four-hour period, either at camp, with the parent/guardian, or in a hospital. This may require

the camper going home to be the parent's care for this time period. If this is not possible, and if deemed necessary, the individual may be transported to the hospital and assessed for at least four hours.

2. If the individual exhibits wheezing, is in distress/anxious, is having difficulty breathing, is blue around the lips/fingernails, etc.:

- The first EpiPen or EpiPen, Jr. will be administered by injecting it into the outer, meaty part of thigh (injected through thin layer of clothing if needed) and held in place for a 10 second count then massaging the area afterwards and discarding the needle safely. MCC will call 911 as soon as possible if an epi-pen is injected
- MCC will take note of the exact time the EpiPen was administered
- MCC will call the parent/guardian as soon as possible. If symptoms continue even after 10 minutes, and medical professionals have not yet arrived on site, MCC will give the second EpiPen or EpiPen, Jr. and continue to wait for EMS.

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