

FOOD ALLERGY SUPPORT GROUP OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

Empowering parents, through support and education, to keep their children safe

Summer 2006 Newsletter

Fall 2006 Workshops:

August 2 — *"Back to School with Food Allergies"*

September 6 — *Presentation by Dr. Tina Zecca and a demonstration by a representative from Twinject (Verus Pharmaceuticals)
refreshments will be available*

October 4 — *TBA*

November 1 — *TBA*

Wednesday Workshops begin at 7:30pm at:

Asthma, Sinus & Allergy Center, 1 Branch Ave., Red Bank (732)741-8222

Tina Zecca, DO, Medical Advisor

<http://fasgmc.tripod.com>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FASGMC>

Subscribe to the yahoo groups e-mail list to communicate with other members of the group

For information, please contact: Kim Wester (732)441-1516 theabwesters@yahoo.com or
Lisa Cronin (732)739-6845 csama1998@msn.com

For information about the Web site or e-mail list contact Ellen at elle920@verizon.net

New Jersey Laws protecting food allergic children in school

While the Food Allergy Support Group of Monmouth County is not a political organization, we think members should be interested in on NJ Senate bill S79 and NJ Assembly bill A961. The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Coalition of New Jersey has done much work getting these bills to the government and they have sent the following information about the bills:

S79 and A961 will safeguard the growing number of students in New Jersey schools who are at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions. These bills call on the State to develop and disseminate, to local school districts, guidelines for developing food allergy management and emergency plans. They also address the accessibility and administration of epinephrine (adrenaline), medication that is key to surviving a life-threatening allergic reaction.

S79 passed, unanimously, in the Senate on June 26, 2006. The vote on A961 was delayed by the recent floods and budgetary issues, but FAAC-NJ expects that A961 will be posted for a vote in the Assembly in September. Please take the opportunity over the summer, as you prepare for your child's (re)entry into school in September, to ask your Assembly member to sign on as a co-sponsor of A961, if they have not already done so. You can view the text of A961 and find contact information for your Assembly member at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>. If you have any questions, you can email FAACNJ@yahoo.com.

New Jersey Senate bill 79 and Assembly bill 961 would accomplish the following:

1. Clarifies that a self-administering student may carry their medication.
2. Replaces reference to “epi-pen” with “pre-filled auto-injector mechanism” in recognition of the fact that there are a variety of injectable epinephrine devices on the market.
3. Requires placement of a student’s prescribed epinephrine in a secure but unlocked location easily accessible by the school nurse and designees, with location to be indicated on the student’s emergency care plan.
4. Requires that the school nurse or a designee be promptly available on site at the school and school-sponsored functions in the event of an allergic reaction.
5. Requires designation and training of employee volunteers to administer epinephrine to a student for anaphylaxis in emergency situations when the nurse is not physically present at the scene.
6. Provides that neither permission to self-administer medication, a coexisting diagnosis of asthma, or prescription for epinephrine coupled with another medication i.e., antihistamine, should preclude delegation of administration of epinephrine in an emergency.
7. Directs Department of Education and the Department of Health and Senior Services to jointly develop training protocols, in consultation with the New Jersey School Nurses Association, in effort to assist school nurses in the delegation process.
8. Requires that the pupil be transported to the hospital by emergency medical services personnel following the administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis, even if the student’s symptoms appear to have resolved.
9. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, appropriate medical experts and professional organizations representing school nurses, principals, teachers, and the food allergy community, to develop and disseminate guidelines for the development of school policies on the management of food allergies in the school setting and the emergency administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis.
10. Directs each board of education and nonpublic school to implement the guidelines established by the Department.
11. Provides that no action of any kind in any court or before the New Jersey State Board of Nursing will lie against any school employee, including the school nurse, or any other officer or agent of a board of education or nonpublic school as the result of any action taken in accordance with the law on the administration of epinephrine.