

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS IS NOT NECESSARY FOR SECTION 504 ELIGIBILITY, HOWEVER, HAVING MEDICAL DATA CAN BE VITAL TO SOLID DECISION-MAKING FOR STUDENT(S) WITH ALLERGIES

- **Section 504 does not require a medical diagnosis to determine eligibility:** However, gathering medical information can be vital information for serving students with severe allergies and multiple chemical sensitivities.

- **Your Section 504 teams should use medical information when making decisions regarding:**
 - 1) What environmental irritants, scents or foods will present a problem?**
 - How much and what exposures might trigger an allergic reaction?
 - Are the exposures found on things at school, the bus or other schools?
 - Are some exposures more uncertain than others?
 - What impact might be caused by outdoor activity, re-circulated air, or other school related components.
 - Are certain times of the year more likely to kindle a reaction?
 - Know the time frame of exposure for triggering a reaction.
 - Has the student ever experienced a reaction at school and if so what were the details that are documented about the occurrence(s).
 - 2) What kind of exposure causes the problem or reaction?**
 - Does the toxin have to touch the student's skin?
 - Will consuming a food item trigger a reaction?
 - How much distance should be between the student and the toxin?
 - What "alarms" do parents watch for at home?
 - 3) What will happen if the student is exposed to the allergen?**
 - Can the student die?
 - Do you have information that you should look for when the student has been previously exposed?
 - Does the student need to be taken to a hospital?
 - How often does the student experience a severe reaction?
 - How long does the reaction last and how long does the recovery take?
 - Will a shot of epinephrine or other medically prescribed substance help stop the reaction?
 - What else should staff know to help control or stop a serious reaction?
 - How much time will the school staff have to respond to a reaction?

➤ **Don't exclude students from specific courses on the sole basis of allergies**

1) In determining whether a child with allergies can enroll in certain courses, a district should consider the following:

- Contact medical providers who can share information about which courses will be safe for the student to participate in and what accommodations, if any, he/she might require.
- All decisions should be made as a team, with members who are knowledgeable about the student's specific needs, including any information, obtained from the student's physician.
- As a team, and if you determine the student can participate in a specific course, develop a written record of accommodations and any safety precautions the student might require and make sure to give the course teacher a copy.



- Adapted and condensed from: Sec. 504 Compliance Advisor, August 2009