Working in K-12 schools can bring with it a bevy of a different challenges. Having effective emergency plans can help schools to operate efficiently no matter what happens throughout the year. Tabletop exercises are a great tool to ensure healthy operations by bringing together key stakeholders to test the mettle of the district emergency management plans. CSDSIP is introducing periodic scenario-based tabletop exercises based upon real life incidents to test your school’s emergency response skills. Each exercise is intended to improve the school’s critical thinking abilities in realistic scenarios, help coordinate the right people to assist in an emergency and provide knowledge and tools to feel confident if an incident does take place.

**Tabletop Exercise 1**

Student has a severe allergic reaction at school. What do you do?

**When**: May at 10:00 AM

**School**: Elementary School

**Incident**: At 10:00 AM 1st grade student David Allen entered the main office complaining of difficulty breathing. David stated he just finished snack time in his classroom and is not having a hard time breathing. David was sent to the nurse’s office.

**What was the response?** After reviewing David’s records, the nurse notes that David is allergic to nuts and has asthma. While in the nurse’s office David complained that his tongue itched. Per the plan in David’s file the nurse gave David a dose of Benadryl and called his mom. The nurse recommended that David be picked up because Benadryl can make him sleepy. David’s mom informed the nurse that she would not be able to pick David up for another “couple hours”. The nurse agreed to send David back to class and have the teacher “keep an eye on him”. David’s mom came to pick up David 2:00 PM with no further incidents. The next day the principal was informed that David was rushed to the hospital and he was in intensive care. Various staff members were interviewed after the fact. It was confirmed that while David was not served a snack that had peanuts, other children brought snacks from home that did contain peanuts.

**Critical Thinking:**

1. What current emergency plans would be activated if this occurred at your district?
2. What board policy and state statue can be reference to help govern this situation?
3. Would you have involved anyone else?
4. What would you have done differently?
5. What lessons can be learned from this scenario?

[**Click here to view the recommendations for response to this incident**](Allergies%20recommendations.docx)**.**

[**Click here to view additional resources**](Allergies%20additional%20resources.docx)**.**

**Conclusion:** While each situation is unique, having an effective plan in place with trained staff can drastically improve the outcome of a situation. Please reach out to CSDSIP to talk through this tabletop exercise or to answer any questions that may arise out of the completing this exercise.

Join us next time for another tabletop exercise.