Do school staff receive training and feel confident in the recognition and management of allergic reactions?

Gary Stiefel¹, Jean Tratt², Kerrie Kirk¹
¹Leicester Royal Infirmary, United Kingdom; ²Leicester Partnership Trust, United Kingdom

Aims: The children’s’ allergy service in Leicester has worked with local school nurses to produce educational material on the recognition and treatment of allergic reactions. School nurses deliver this package to school staff. The aim of this survey was to ascertain whether staff felt they were able to manage children presenting with an allergic reaction.

Methods: 377 schools under the jurisdiction of two local education authorities were sent a link to an online questionnaire. The schools were requested to circulate the questionnaire to all members of staff to complete.

Results:
- Training for the management of allergic reactions was provided by a LEA school nurse (75.1%), first aid training provider (16.7%) and other including no training (8.2%)
- 75.4% of school staff had received training in recognition and management of allergic reactions within the last 12 months, 14.2% within 12-24 months and 10.4% >24 months.
- 91.1% felt confident in the recognition of an allergic reaction, while 89.3% felt confident in being able to manage an allergic reaction, including the use of an AAI.
- 30.4% and 22.9% respectively felt they needed more training on recognition of an allergic reaction and administration of an AAI.

Discussion: Nearly all members of staff completing the survey had received training within the last 2 years and feel confident in the recognition and management of allergic reactions. Significant numbers of staff feel further training would be beneficial.

Conclusions: Continued resources are required to maintain staff training in managing allergy. Additional training resources such as DVD, trainer pens & useful websites should be provided with the current training package to provide ongoing training.