

Classroom Hive Safety Plan

After the hive has been approved by principal, department heads, parents, and other school members, it is vital that a safety plan is put into place before the bees arrive at the school.

Notices to post or distribute:

1. Posted notice at the front office that there is an active beehive in the school.
2. Posted notice on all doors of the room of the active beehive indicating its presence and that students are not allowed in the room without an adult present.
3. Annual letter to parents that there is a hive in the school (and to report if their child has an allergy to the nurse if not already standard district procedure).
4. Posted notices of hive rules and safety procedures near the hive and outside the classroom of the hive. These should be reviewed with all students who will be the classroom of the hive (whole school if possible) and outline:
 - a. Hive Rules (expected behavior around the hive)
 - b. What to do if a bee is found foraging in the school: how to react and let a teacher know as soon as possible.
 - c. What to do if more than the usual number of bees are outside the hive entrance: calmly let the teacher whose classroom has the hive know as soon as possible.

Other safety precautions:

5. Two EpiPens/Auvi-Q for bee allergic students in the nurse's office and classroom with hive (and kept in the child's backpack if needed).
6. Training of EpiPen/Auvi-Q administration for teachers and custodians in the school (especially ones working near the hive and on school grounds where the hive is located).
7. Training of EpiPen/Auvi-Q administration for students attending class in the hive's room.
8. Hive securely attached to a structure with a solid immovable/heavy base, in case of accidental heavy touching of the hive.
9. Screens on building windows near the hive so that if open, bees will not fly in.
10. Maintenance of the hive only done under the supervision of trained beekeepers. Students out of the classroom, or if helping, wearing appropriate beekeeping gear.
11. Installation and maintenance of the hive done in the evening when bee activity is minimal. A mosquito net draped over the hive as a secondary precaution when removing a frame in the event of an escaped bee. Frames only opened for maintenance outdoors, never indoors.

Additional suggestions:

12. Posted/distributed materials for interested students of the active beehive in the school.
13. Relationship with local beekeepers and/or beekeeping associations.
14. Open and ongoing invitation to interact with the hive (e.g. beekeeping club, "Meet the Queen", honey tasting, chapstick making, etc.) so that parents, students, staff, and community can feel that they have a voice and a relationship with the hive in the school.