

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

I. Definitions

- A. "Anaphylaxis" refers to a potentially fatal, acute allergic reaction to a substance (such as stinging insects, foods, and medications) that is induced by an exposure to the substance. Manifestations of anaphylaxis may be cutaneous (such as hives, itchiness, swelling); cardiorespiratory (swelling of tongue, throat, wheezing, difficulty breathing, low blood pressure); central nervous system (lethargy, coma); and others.
- B. "Epinephrine auto-injectors" refers to an "Epipen" or any other similar device that is used for the automatic injection of epinephrine into the human body to prevent anaphylaxis
- C. "Trained personnel" means a certified nurse-teacher or other school administrator or teacher who might be administering an epinephrine auto-injector in case of anaphylaxis and who has been trained and is competent in the administration of first aid and the epinephrine auto-injector, which such training shall include (but not be limited to): signs and symptoms of anaphylactic shock; proper epinephrine auto-injector storage (e.g., examining color, clarity and expiration date); proper epinephrine auto-injector dosage; proper epinephrine auto-injector administration; adverse reactions; accessing the "911" emergency medical system; and preparation for movement and transport of a student experiencing anaphylaxis.

II. Management

- A. Parents/legal guardians shall provide a physician's letter and a filled prescription (i.e., the epinephrine auto-injector), notifying the school of the student's allergy and the need to administer the epinephrine auto-injector in a case of anaphylaxis.
- B. Students may self-administer the epinephrine auto-injector in a case of anaphylaxis if there is medical authorization and parent/legal guardian consent on file for the student to do so and if the student can demonstrate the ability to self-administer the auto-injector.
- C. Upon such notification, the administration shall communicate the required medical information from the parent/guardian to the school nurse, teachers and food service workers. Transportation company workers will be informed of this medical situation if parents/legal guardians so authorize.
- D. At all times, each school shall have available at least one person who is trained and competent in the administration of first aid and the epinephrine auto-injector, other than the school nurse.
- E. Upon notification and medical identification of a student at risk for anaphylaxis, the school principal or his/her designee, in conjunction with the certified nurse-teacher and other trained personnel, shall develop an individualized emergency plan for such student.

- F. In the event of anaphylaxis, a certified nurse-teacher or other trained personnel may administer an epinephrine auto-injector on a medically identified student when authorized by a parent/guardian, when ordered by a physician, and/or when anaphylaxis is imminent. A previously unidentified student with the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis should have the Epipen administered. The person rendering this care will not be liable for civil damages.
 - G. In cases where the medical documentation demonstrates that a particular student is at risk for severe, immediate and fatal anaphylactic reaction, the individualized emergency plan for such student shall require the presence of a sufficient number of trained personnel to assure the immediate administration of an epinephrine auto-injector.
 - H. At regular intervals, the certified nurse-teacher or other trained personnel shall ensure that the expiration date on all epinephrine auto-injectors has not lapsed.
 - I. A personally identified epinephrine auto-injector shall be used only upon the student for whom it was prescribed, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 28.3 of Title 21, "Drug Abuse Control", of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended. The district will maintain a supply of "Epipens" for use on previously unidentified students and staff.
 - J. Each school will maintain epinephrine in cartridge injections in an accessible and secure location, for the purpose of emergency first aid to anyone who may experience an allergic reaction outside of the school day.
 - K. Immediately after administration of the epinephrine auto-injector, the emergency medical system ("911") shall be called, the student shall be transported promptly to an acute-care hospital for medical evaluation and follow up, and the student's parents/guardians shall be notified. If the epinephrine auto-injector has been administered by trained personnel other than the certified nurse-teacher, the certified nurse-teacher shall also be notified immediately.
 - L. These procedures shall be reviewed on an annual basis and approved, with or without modification, by the school district consulting physician.
- III. Immunity from Liability. Section 16-21-22 of the Rhode Island General Laws provides: no school teacher, school administrator or school health care personnel shall be liable for civil damages which may result from acts or omissions in use of epinephrine which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct.

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