

Draft Policy

ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

Policy:

This policy in accordance with Public Health Law 2500-H2, the Anaphylactic Policy for School District is as follows:

Guidelines for Administration, Supervisors, and School Nursing personnel:

- Use of epinephrine is only approved for the emergency treatment of anaphylaxis.
- Allergy history should be established for all students and staff at the beginning of each school year.
- Each student known to be sensitized to any allergen should have an epinephrine auto-injector with current expiration date available during school and school sponsored activities.
- Development of an emergency action plan with parental consent to inform and train appropriate teachers and staff of the location and appropriate use of epinephrine auto-injector in anaphylaxis treatment.
- Facilitate communication efforts to control exposure to anaphylactic causative agents.
- A plan for monitoring epinephrine auto-injector expiration date.
- If, in the professional assessment of the school nurse, an epi-pen should be available at school for an individual student, request should be made to the student's parent for such an order as well as the prescription and guidelines for the Epi-Pen's use. Both the order/prescription and guidelines should be included in the student's individual health plan. (IHP)

Procedure:

IF, in the school nurse's assessment, an individual in the school setting is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction, the nurse is directed to immediately activate the emergency system by **CALLING 911** or directing someone else to do so.

THEN the nurse should:

- Place the person in the supine position with legs elevated unless doing so interferes with breathing, **THEN**
- Inject epinephrine subcutaneously or intramuscularly into the thigh or arm according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Note:

Epinephrine is available in single dose ampule or multidose vial (1:1000) solution

Epinephrine auto-injectors are available in 0.3mg dose (Epi-Pen 1:000) and 0.15mg dose (Epi-Pen Jr. 1:2000) Using two 0.15mg doses to obtain a 0.3mg dose is permissible.

BEFORE epinephrine is administered for anaphylaxis one or more of the following symptoms should be present on nursing assessment.

- **SKIN:** severe urticaria (hives, rash, generalized itching), swelling, flushing
- **MOUTH:** swelling of lips, face, tongue, throat, report that the mouth "feel hot"
- **BREATH:** wheezing, difficulty breathing, repetitive or hacking cough, laryngeal swelling (hoarseness, lump in throat, difficulty swallowing)
- **HEART:** pale, weak or thready pulse, low blood pressure, fainting, blueness
- **GI:** nausea, vomiting abdominal cramps, diarrhea
- **GENERAL:** apprehension, dizziness, feeling of impending doom or panic.