

STANDING ORDER FOR THE USE OF AN EPINEPHRINE AUTOINJECTOR

In the event of anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction that may be triggered by an insect sting or bite, drug, allergy, food allergy, or environmental irritant. Epinephrine is the standard emergency treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Delays in administering epinephrine when signs of early anaphylaxis are present can cost someone their life. Early signs can progress to life threatening and death within the span of 5-10 minutes.

Epinephrine is similar to adrenalin in the body and will briefly open constricted bronchioles and stabilize falling blood pressure associated with severe allergic reactions.

Anytime epinephrine is used, emergency medical services must be called, as this measure helps support survival temporarily. Symptoms may continue as epinephrine effects wear off in 5-10 minutes, necessitating a second dose of epinephrine in some individuals. The correct dosage is based on the weight of the person.

Early symptoms of an allergic reaction can be very similar to a severe asthma episode. The following procedures should be followed by a school nurse or designated first aid responder trained by a school nurse if a student presents with symptoms of severe asthma or a severe allergic reaction.

ALLERGIC REACTIONS

	Symptoms	Actions
Mild Reaction	Mild Rash Itching/Hives Child with asthma may complain of difficulty breathing, speaking, talking, and want inhaler urgently.	Check the student's health history. Administer prescribed medication according to Action Plan (i.e. inhalers). Observe for breathing relief to occur after medication given.
Moderate Reaction	Increased air hunger, facial swelling, wheezing, pale/red flush to skin, weakness. <i>GI symptoms:</i> Stomach pain, vomiting, nausea. <i>CVS:</i> Pale, sudden drop in blood pressure, worsening hives.	Call the nurse and parent. Locate the EpiPen. Administer the EpiPen to prevent progression of symptoms.
Severe Reaction	Airway obstruction, increased head/neck/body swelling. Throat/tongue swelling, difficulty speaking. Pale or dusky discoloration, fearful expression, cardiac or respiratory arrest, unconsciousness.	See below for detailed instructions.

Action for SEVERE allergic reaction:

- ◆ **Call 911 or local emergency medical services number IMMEDIATELY!!**
- ◆ **Choose appropriate EpiPen or other injectable epinephrine according to the child's weight:**
Child weight below 30 kg (60 pounds) use EpiPen Jr (0.15 mg epinephrine) Child weight above 30 kg (60 pounds) use EpiPen (0.3 mg epinephrine)
- ◆ **Administer EpiPen according to these directions:**
 1. **Pull off safety cap**
 2. **Place tip on outer thigh at right angle to leg (for insect sting, inject leg opposite to sting).**
 3. **Press firmly into thigh (you may inject through clothing)**
 4. **Hold in place for 10 seconds**
 5. **Remove and massage area for 10 seconds**
 6. **Summon the nurse or after giving epinephrine, or another 1st responder.**
 7. **Monitor response while awaiting the arrival of EMS and vital signs if possible.**
 8. **If symptoms are unrelieved after 10 minutes and EMS has not arrived, administer a 2nd dose, and call EMS back to ascertain estimated arrival time. Stay with child.**

Primary Care Physician's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____