

HEALTH POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Allergic Reaction and Epi-Pen Administration to Identified Students: Health Policy

PURPOSE

To provide immediate life -saving medicine to a student previously identified as having a life threatening allergy to food or other specified allergen.

Epi-pens for identified students remain in the nurse’s office in a conspicuous place and are available at all times throughout the school day. These students’ Epi-pens are held by staff during off campus events. Middle and high school students also may self-carry Epi-pens when authorized.

Definition: Anaphylaxis is a rapidly progressing, life-threatening allergic reaction to something a person is allergic to. The immune system responds to otherwise harmless substances from the environment (e.g. insect venom, medication or food).

Most likely symptoms of anaphylaxis:

Tight, itchy throat, swelling of lips, tongue, mouth, throat, face or extremities, difficulty swallowing, hives or rash, severe abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, panic, “thready” pulse.

Other possible symptoms of anaphylaxis:

Wheezing or shortness of breath, hoarseness or hacking cough, passing out.

Procedure when a student has an allergic reaction requiring the use of Epi-pen.

- The trained staff member with the student will administer the Epi-Pen immediately and stay with the child. A student may self-administer Epi-pen if student has permission by his or her doctor, parent, and school nurse to do so.
- 911 will be called immediately by another staff (if available) who will proceed to meet and direct the ambulance.
- The school nurse will be contacted immediately and bring emergency supplies and the student’s file and emergency treatment form with her.
- The nurse and staff will stay with the student while waiting for EMS (Emergency Medical System) to arrive.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately by other staff (if available) and notified of the event, the hospital to be transported to; Hasbro Children’s Hospital, 593 Eddy St, Providence, RI 02903 and the phone number (401) 444-4000.

- The parent will be directed to meet the student at the hospital to give physicians permission to treat their child.
- Director or Assistant Director, in the absence of the Director, is to be notified immediately.
- A meeting will be held with all involved personnel to debrief the event.

Policy

In accordance with Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs (R&RFSHP), under ***Response to and Treatment for Anaphylaxis*** , unlicensed staff who have been trained in accordance with 18.2,18.3 and/or 18.4 are permitted to administer Epi-pen to students with a diagnosed life threatening allergy, and for whom Epi-pen has been prescribed, when a school nurse is not immediately available.

Staff training is done annually on the use of Epi-pen for identified students per R&RFSHP 18.4, July 2014.

A doctor's order for Epi-pen administration will be kept on file with written parent permission. Such order will be renewed annually. Each student identified with a life threatening allergy will have an individual health care plan and an emergency care plan on file, which also will be renewed annually.

A student who is capable of self-medicating, and who has a physician's order to self-carry the medication , and has been assessed as capable of self-administering the Epi-pen by the parent (written consent) and by the school nurse, may be allowed to carry the Epi-pen with him/her at all times and use it if required. Epi-pens will accompany students at all off-site school sponsored activities.

Students with self-carry permission will keep with them a 2 pack supply of Epi-pen. An additional supply of Epi-pen will be kept in a conspicuous place in the health office that all trained staff are aware of. This is a safety measure should a student leave his or her medicine at home.

A student that is treated for anaphylaxis at the school or school sponsored activity shall be transported by ambulance promptly to a hospital for medical evaluation and follow-up.

Epi-pen should not be put in direct sunlight or left in extreme heat. Epi-pens should not be used if the medication is cloudy or if it is past the expiration date of safe usage. The monitoring of the medication kept in the health office will be done by the school nurse.

A student or staff member presenting with symptoms of anaphylaxis that has not been previously identified will be assessed by the school nurse. The school nurse or school nurse substitute will administer stock epinephrine to the person presenting with anaphylaxis that has not been previously identified. Staff trained in Epi-pen administration are not able to give epi-pen to non-diagnosed, non-previously identified persons; see health policy regarding stock epi-pens.