

HEALTH POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Purpose

To provide immediate life-saving medicine to a student or staff member that has not been previously identified as having a life threatening allergy to food or other specified allergen. In this case only the school nurse or school nurse substitute may be allowed to assess the person and administer epinephrine.

Stock Epi-pens are identified as follows: a quantity of a minimum of at least 2 (two) Epi-pen and at least 2 (two) Epi-pen Jr. will be available and stored at room temperature in the health office for use in an acute situation consistent with anaphylaxis as determined by a licensed health professional (RN or MD). Inventory must remain stocked and free from expiration as determined and labeled by the manufacturer. A Medical order from the school physician will be in place and renewed annually giving permission for the licensed health professional to administer stock Epi-pen.

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 non-identified student has an allergic reaction requiring the use of Epi-pen.

- The staff witnessing the student with an allergic reaction will stay with the student.
- 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 (stock Epi-pen) and the student’s file and emergency treatment form with her. The school nurse will administer the appropriate dose of Epi-pen based on the nurse’s assessment.
- 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.
- Parent 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

It is the policy of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf that it will keep on its premises stock epinephrine to be used in the instance of a person presenting with an unidentified anaphylactic allergic reaction.

A standing order written by the school physician for the administration of Epi-pen to a non-identified student is on file and is renewed annually. No requirement in the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs shall be construed as prohibiting the issuance of a standing order by a school physician for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector by a school nurse to a student who has not been previously medically identified for the prevention or treatment of anaphylaxis. (18.1).

Stock Epi-pens will be obtained and kept locked in the nurse's office in the med storage room. Only the school nurse or sub nurse will have access to the stock Epi-pens and only the school nurse or sub nurse will be responsible for the administration of stock Epi-pens.

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 stock Epi-pens will be done by the school nurse.

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.