

SUPERINTENDENT'S REGULATION 7-5.5 (B)

GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTERING EPINEPHRINE TO STUDENTS IN RESPONSE TO ANAPHYLAXIS

Background

Pursuant to Policy 7-5.5 Administering Medicines to Students Poquoson City and Code of Virginia §22.1-274.2 Poquoson City Public Schools will provide at least two (2) doses of auto-injectable epinephrine (hereinafter called unassigned or stock epinephrine) in each school, to be administered by a school nurse or employee of the school board who is authorized and trained in the administration of epinephrine to any student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on school premises, during the academic day.

Process/Procedures

Standing Protocol Limitations

Parents of students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis should provide the school with written instructions from the students' health care provider for handling anaphylaxis and all necessary medications for implementing the student specific order on an annual basis. This anaphylaxis standing protocol is not intended to replace student specific orders or parent provided individual medications. This standing protocol does not extend to activities off school grounds (including transportation to and from school, field trips, etc.) or outside of the academic day (sporting events, extra-curricular activities, etc.).

Standing Orders

Standing orders are written to cover multiple people as opposed to individual-specific orders, which are written for one person. Poquoson City Public Schools has designated an authorized medical provider to prescribe non-student specific epinephrine for the school division, to be administered to any student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on school grounds, during the academic day. Standing orders will be renewed annually and with any change in prescriber.

Storage, Access and Maintenance

Epinephrine will be stored in a safe, unlocked and accessible location, in a dark place at room temperature (between 59-86 degrees F). Staff will be aware of the storage location in each school. It will be protected from exposure to heat, cold or freezing temperatures. Exposure to sunlight will hasten deterioration of epinephrine more rapidly than exposure to room temperatures. The expiration date of epinephrine solutions will be periodically checked; the drug should be replaced if it is approaching the expiration date. The contents will periodically be inspected through the clear window of the auto-injector. The solution should be clear; if it is discolored or contains solid particles, replace the unit.

Each school should maintain documentation that stock epinephrine has been checked on a monthly basis to ensure proper storage, expiration date, and medication stability. The school division will maintain a sufficient number of extra doses of epinephrine for replacement of used or expired school stock on the day it is used or discarded. Expired auto-injectors or those with discolored solution or solid particles will not be used. Staff will discard them in a sharps container.

Training

Building level administrators must identify at least two employees, in addition to the school nurse (RN or LPN), to be trained in the administration of epinephrine by auto-injector. Only trained personnel should administer epinephrine to a student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction. Training is conducted in accordance with the most current edition of the Virginia Department of Education's Manual for Training Public School Employees in the Administration of Medication. Training is conducted annually or more often as needed.

Responding to Anaphylaxis

If student-specific orders are on file they should be followed for students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis.

For suspected anaphylaxis *without* specific orders – act quickly. It is safer to give epinephrine than it is to delay treatment.

- Call School Nurse/Front Office school personnel and advise of situation.
- Direct someone to call 911 and request medical assistance. Advise the 911 operator that anaphylaxis is suspected and that epinephrine has been given.
- Determine the proper dose and administer epinephrine. Note the time.
- Stay with the person until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives.
- Monitor their airway and breathing.
- Reassure and calm person as needed.
- Direct someone to call parent/guardian.
- If symptoms continue and EMS is not on the scene, administer a second dose of epinephrine 5 to 15 minutes after the initial injection. Note the time.
- Administer CPR if needed.
- EMS to transport individual to the emergency room. Document individual's name, date, and time the epinephrine was administered on the used epinephrine auto-injector and give to EMS to accompany individual to the emergency room.

Symptoms of Anaphylaxis

- Shortness of breath or tightness of chest; difficulty in or absence of breathing
- Sneezing, wheezing or coughing
- Difficulty swallowing

- Swelling of lips, eyes, face, tongue, throat or elsewhere
- Low blood pressure, dizziness and/or fainting
- Heart beat complaints: rapid or decreased
- Blueness around lips, inside lips, eyelids
- Sweating and anxiety
- Itching, with or without hives; raised red rash in any area of the body
- Skin flushing or color becomes pale
- Hoarseness
- Sense of impending disaster or approaching death
- Loss of bowel or bladder control
- Nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea
- Burning sensation, especially face or chest
- Loss of consciousness

Although anaphylactic reactions typically result in multiple symptoms, reactions may vary. A single symptom may indicate anaphylaxis. **Epinephrine should be administered promptly at the first sign of anaphylaxis. It is safer to administer epinephrine than it is to delay treatment for anaphylaxis.**

Post Event Actions

- Once epinephrine is administered, local Emergency Medical Services (911) shall be activated and the student transported to the emergency room for follow up care.
- Document the event by completing the Report of Anaphylactic Reaction.
- Replace epinephrine stock medication immediately.
- Debrief with administration and involved personnel.

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Legal Reference: Code of Virginia §22.1-274.2