

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Reg. No. 200-39
Subject: ALLERGIC REACTIONS – SEVERE/LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CARE	Issued: 10/22/90
Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent	Amended: 6/15/15

I. Policy

II. Definitions

“Anaphylaxis” is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention and can be fatal if not treated immediately when coming into contact with an allergen. Common allergens that may cause anaphylaxis are insect stings or bites, foods, nuts, latex, medications and/or other allergens. Anaphylaxis may also be exercise induced.

An *“epinephrine auto-injector”* (hereafter commonly referred to as an EAI, e.g. Epipen®) is a disposable pre-filled syringe designed to deliver a single dose of epinephrine by intramuscular injection into the outer thigh to provide initial emergency treatment for anaphylaxis.

A *“prescribed EAI”* refers to an epinephrine auto-injector that has been prescribed for a particular individual who has a known history of anaphylaxis or severe allergies. The EAI is labeled and to be used for that individual. The parent/guardian purchases and provides the EAI to the school health staff.

A *“stock EAI”* refers to an epinephrine auto-injector that has been supplied by FCPS for emergency use when an individual without a known history of anaphylaxis or severe allergies or any individual who presents with signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and does not have a prescribed EAI available.

“Other identified and trained school personnel” are Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) staff members who are identified in each school to administer an EAI to students in an emergency situation in the event that school health staff is not available. These individuals are trained specifically by the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) nurse and may include, but not limited to: school administrators, FCPS staff designees who cover health rooms, teachers, athletic directors or other designated employees.

III. Procedures

In the event a student is identified as having an impairment requiring an EAI pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the student’s 504 plan shall be followed. (Cross-reference FCPS Regulation 400-66 *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Implementation Guidelines*)

Many individuals may have life threatening allergic reactions when exposed to a wide variety of potential allergens. These reactions may or may not have a known history and cause in the individual.

Students with a known history of anaphylaxis or severe allergies should have a Health Care Plan and the parent/guardian must provide emergency medication (epinephrine) and have it available in school.

For individuals who have anaphylaxis with an unknown history, the FCHD Health Services staff and other identified and trained school personnel may administer epinephrine if the individual is determined to be, or perceived to be, in anaphylaxis regardless of whether the individual has:

- (1) been identified as having a history of an anaphylactic allergy, as defined in §7-426.1, Education Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, or
- (2) a prescription for epinephrine from an authorized licensed health care provider.

IV. Students with **Known** Allergies or Anaphylaxis:

- A. When the parent/guardian indicates an allergic condition on the confidential health information card or other health record, the FCHD RN is responsible for requesting additional information about the student's physical reactions to known allergic substances
- B. For students who provide an EAI to the school, it is the responsibility of the FCHD RN to develop a written Health Care Plan for the management of anaphylaxis and review the student's Health Care Plan with staff which may include, but not be limited to, the principal, classroom teacher and bus driver.
- C. School staff will be educated about signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. In schools where students have an EAI, the FCHD RN is responsible for training designated FCPS staff to administer the EAI as necessary. The FCHD nurse will evaluate staff competency a minimum of every other month.
- D. The parent/guardian is responsible for providing a completed "Authorization for Management of Anaphylaxis" form signed by the health care provider and parent/guardian. **A correct and complete form is required prior to medication administration. The order must be student and dose specific.** This form is available on the FCPS website under Specialized Health Forms:
<http://www.fcps.org/student-services/forms>
- E. The parent/guardian is responsible for providing a properly labeled EAI with the correct dosage as defined in §7-426, Education Article.
- F. Authorization forms must be renewed at the beginning of each school year, and the parent/guardian must provide new medication prior to the expiration date on the pharmacy label.
- G. EAI's are to be stored in a clearly labeled, secured accessible area.
- H. If a child who has anaphylactic allergies is determined to be capable of and responsible for self-administration, then the principal and nurse shall establish procedures for self-administration of medication by the child. The capability is to be determined collectively by the principal, nurse, parent/guardian and child's physician. The principal may revoke the authority of a child to self-administer medication if the child endangers himself or herself or another child through misuse of the medication.
- I. 911 will be called immediately after administration of an EAI. FCPS staff will accompany the student to the emergency room if the parent/guardian is unable. A copy of the student's confidential health information card and emergency information card should accompany the student and staff member to the emergency room.

V. Individuals with **Unknown** Allergies or Anaphylaxis:

- A. Stock EAI's are to be kept in each school to be used in emergency situations.
- B. The stock EAI's are to be stored in a clearly labeled, secured accessible area. It is the responsibility of the FCHD nurse and the FCPS health specialist to track the expiration dates, appropriately discard EAI's, and replace expired EAI's.
- C. EAI's will be made available in an emergency during the school day, including field trips.
- D. The FCHD Health Services staff will follow the procedures outlined in the "Standing Orders for Administration of the Epinephrine Auto-Injector for Anaphylaxis" signed by the Frederick County Health Officer or designee.
- E. Designated FCPS staff will receive education on the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis through an online educational module. Select staff will be designated to administer stock EAI's with a minimum of three other identified and trained school personnel in each school.
- F. The FCHD RN will train, monitor and evaluate the individuals designated to administer EAI's. The training will include: how to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, the proper use of and how to administer an EAI in the event an individual is determined to be or perceived to be in anaphylaxis. The FCHD nurse will evaluate staff competency a minimum of every other month.
- G. If an individual is determined to be or perceived to be in anaphylaxis and does not have a known history of anaphylaxis or a prescribed EAI, FCHD staff and trained FCPS staff are authorized to administer an EAI if an individual presents with the symptoms outlined in the protocol for anaphylaxis.
- H. 911 will be called immediately after administration of an EAI. FCPS staff will accompany the student to the emergency room if the parent/guardian is unable. A copy of the student's confidential health information card and emergency information card should accompany the student and staff member to the emergency room.
- I. When a student is administered a stock EAI, the FCHD nurse will follow up with the parent/guardian regarding documentation and possible diagnosis from the health care provider. The FCHD nurse will work with the parent/guardian to develop a written health care plan for the management of anaphylaxis in the school setting if necessary.
- J. If a student has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, Section IV of this regulation applies.

Note: Cross-reference FCPS Reg.No. 400-23 *Medication Administration*

Approved:

original signed by

Theresa R. Alban
Superintendent